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**Sally Gries new Cleveland
Foundation chair**
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THE REAL DEAL

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PRESS

Editor's Column

Street to City Council: 'Don't talk about it. Be about it.'

The current roiling civic conversation over how best to create and sustain a lead safe environment that will protect Cleveland's children reveals a great deal about this area's approach to solving public problems.

Several community groups — including the [Cleveland Lead Safe Network](#), Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus, and Black Lives Matter of Cuyahoga County — cooperating under the umbrella of Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing, or CLASH, collected more than 10,000 signatures in support of an initiative petition to force Cleveland City Council to adopt a strong ordinance to address lead poisoning.

They coalesced to seek a solution to a public health crisis that has been allowed to fester for several decades because our indifferent civic and political leadership felt no pressure to address the problem.

CLASH's announcement this past January of its intent to ignite a grassroots effort to initiate legislation quickly surfaced a countervailing force, Cleveland

Lead Safe Coalition, comprised of some of the community's most powerful philanthropic and institutional interests, including the Cleveland and Gund foundations, United Way, Neighborhood Progress Inc., Case Western Reserve University, University Hospitals, MetroHealth, Sherwin-Williams, Cuyahoga County and both sides of Cleveland City Hall. [Fuller [list available here.](#)]

While some Coalition partners are not comfortable admitting it, the energy driving the discussion has risen organically from community groups no longer willing to abide the community's traditional movers and shakers' refusal to make a lead-safe Cleveland an urgent civic goal.

This week the Board of Elections validated more than 6500 of the CLASH signatures, way in excess of the 5000 required by city charter. Normally, city council would now have about 90 days to introduce the citizens' ordinance, refer it to committee, hold a public hearing, and vote to adopt, amend or reject it. Either amendment or rejection

***Joe Jones, Blaine Griffin,
Basheer Jones, Kevin Conwell,
Anthony Hairston: won't at
least one of you step up?***

would allow petitioners to place their ordinance before the voters this November.

But petitioners may have failed to conform their work fully to a set of confusing state requirements, and council clerk Pat Britt declared the petitions to be invalid on their face, barring the CLASH ordinance from consideration by council.

Of course, two years ago Britt took a similar position when confronted with a referendum petitions signed by more than 22,000 citizens who wanted to overturn Council's decision to fund an expansion of Quicken Loans Arena [renamed just this past week]. The Ohio Supreme Court slapped her down, essentially ruling that her role was administrative and not discretionary.

Britt takes her cues from

Council President Kevin Kelley, who typically marches in lock-step with Mayor Frank Jackson's administration, so her position was no surprise once the apparent flaw in the petition form was noted by county election board officials. CLASH will now take Britt to court again.

An uneasy tension exists between the establishment Coalition and CLASH, even though the latter is a part of the former. While giving lip service to collaboration, Coalition members have on several occasions sought to exclude CLASH from public forums. Conversations with key Coalition members seem to suggest that the larger group considers CLASH's fervor beyond a point as uncivil and not the Cleveland way.

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Sally Gries succeeds Rev. Rowan as Board Chair at Cleveland Foundation

Rev. Dr. Robin E. Hedgeman, Kathleen Ferry appointed as new board members



Sally Gries



Steve Rowan



Kathleen Ferry



Robin Hedgeman

Sally Gries, founder of the first female-owned money management and financial planning firm in Ohio, has been elected chairperson of The Cleveland Foundation Board of Directors, succeeding retiring board member and current chair Rev. Dr. Stephen Rowan, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church.

In addition, Kathleen Ferry and Rev. Dr. Robin E. Hedgeman have been appointed as new members to the foundation's board. Ferry is a principal with FocusCFO and was appointed by Patricia A. Gaughan, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. Hedgeman is the senior pastor at Bethany Christian Church and was appointed by the Cleveland Foundation Bank Trustees Committee.

Gries has served on many boards in Northeast Ohio, including Holden Forests & Gardens, Hawken School and Case Western Reserve University, and is a member of the National Advisory Board of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

A North Olmsted native, Ferry brings more than 30 years of corporate finance and business operations experience to the board of the Cleveland Foundation. She is also a member of the Board of Regents at St. Ignatius High School, having previously served on the boards of the

Jesuit Retreat House and Magnificat High School. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA in Finance from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

Rev. Dr. Hedgeman has served as the Senior Pastor at Bethany Christian Church since 1997. She previously served seven years on the regional staff of the Christian Church in Ohio. She is an adjunct professor for the National Youth Sports Program at Case Western Reserve University, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., and serves as a mentor for the John Adams High School for the Adopt-A-School Program. Dr. Hedgeman earned a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from Towson State University, a Master of Divinity from Lexington Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary.

In addition to Gries, Ferry and Dr. Hedgeman join other current Cleveland Foundation board members Carrie Carpenter, Inajo Davis Chappell, Jenniffer D. Deckard, Hiroyuki Fujita, Robert A. Glick, Constance Hill-Johnson, Bernie Moreno, Michael B. Petras Jr., Beth Oldenburg Rankin, Ronald A. Ratner, Daniel P. Walsh and Ernest L. Wilkerson Jr.

Street to City Council

Continued from Page 1

Here's a suggestion for Coalition members: put deeds behind your words. Rather than merely acknowledge the concerns of more than 10,000 petition signers, induce at least one city council member to introduce the petitioners' ordinance and give it a hearing.

Introducing the ordinance could save the parties considerable litigation expense

and advance the time when lead remediation efforts will actually intensify. It would be a sign of good will and could go a long way towards reducing mistrust between the Coalition and CLASH.

Joe Jones, Blaine Griffin, Basheer Jones, Kevin Conwell, Anthony Hairston: won't at least one of you step up?

R. T. Andrews, Editor

THE **REAL DEAL** PRESS

Reporting on the interplay of race, class and power in the civic, business and cultural spaces of Northeast Ohio and beyond.

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QUOTE of the Week
"The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history"

— George Orwell

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Redlining Exhibit gets new homes

Cleveland Neighborhood Progress has announced three new locations for the traveling Undesign the Redline exhibit. The traveling exhibit will be on display beginning tomorrow through December 20, 2019.

Sponsors hope the new locations will increase visibility and promote ongoing dialogues about racial inequalities.

The Undesign the Redline exhibit explores how the history of race, class and U. S. housing policy continues to shape our communities today. It has been on display at Mt. Pleasant NOW Development Corp. since fall 2018. It will continue to be on display there through December 2019, while the traveling exhibit reaches new neighborhoods.

Erika Anthony, Vice President of Government Relations and Strategy at Neighborhood Progress sees the exhibits as continuing NPI's work on racial equity and inclusion, saying in a release, "It is important to acknowledge the pervasive government-sanctioned policies that led to housing discrimination."

New locations for the traveling exhibit are:

Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization & Cudell Improvement, Inc., 6016 Lorain Ave. [44102] • April 15-June 28, 2019.

YWCA of Greater Cleveland, 4019 Prospect Ave. [44103] • July 8-September 27, 2019.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral-Commons, 2230 Euclid Ave. [44115] • October 7-December 20, 2019.

The interactive exhibit highlights the powerful



narratives of the people and communities most affected by the legacy of redlining. Participants are invited to learn the history, interact with the stories, and invent the future of undoing structural inequities.

Created by social impact firm *Designing the We*, the interactive exhibit uses maps and other documentation to trace the enormous role that race played in determining where people were allowed to live and how government-sanctioned policies, such as "redlining," created segregation and disinvestment in communities that continue to persist today. *Undesign the Redline* seeks to inspire a new conversation about how systems and policies can be *undisigned* with intentionality and urgency, in ways that lead to better community outcomes.

Additional information about the locations and days of operations for the exhibits at www.clevelandnp.org/undesigntheredline/

LifeCycles

OBITUARY

James W. Barrett, 84



Former Cleveland Safety Director James W. Barrett died April 6, 2019 at Beachwood Pointe Care Center in Beachwood. He was 84.

Barrett was born August 12, 1934 in Macon, Georgia to John Jack Barrett and Annie Mae Williams Barrett. He became a Cleveland police officer and later served as chief security officer for former Cleveland mayor Carl Stokes.


A man of independent bent, Bar-


rett was one of a very few African Americans to support Dennis Kucinich's for mayor in 1977. After Kucinich won, he named Barrett the city's safety director, the first black to hold that position.

Barrett nurtured a lifelong interest in public affairs. He championed the [Buffalo Soldiers](#), and founded G-PAC, a political action committee known today as the Carl Stokes Brigade.


Barrett was preceded in death by wife Peggy Ford Barrett and 3 siblings. Survivors include his children, Marcus "Geronimo" Barrett, Scott Barrett, Daryle T. (Sharon) Foxx, Cynthia Ford, nine grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and siblings George (Mary) Barrett and Shirley Washington of California.

A Memorial service will be held at 2p Saturday, April 20 at Cummings and Davis Funeral Home, 13201 Euclid Ave, [44112].



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This Week In Politics



• **Ohio has enacted S.B. 23, the fetal heartbeat bill**, which some say is now the nation's most punitive and restrictive anti-abortion statute. The bill sailed through both legislative chambers and Gov. DeWine signed in, fulfilling a campaign promise. The measure will of course be challenged in court.



• **East Cleveland residents hold a public forum tomorrow** on their proposal for a publicly funded supermarket in their city. Several county officials, including County Council members, Budish Administration members and the Cuyahoga County

Board of Health are expected offer feedback on the proposal. Organizers expect a sizable turnout.

Trevelle Harp, executive director of Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope, which organized the forum together with the Creating Healthy Communities Program at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and HIP-Cuyahoga, noted in a press release that county neighborhoods "that experience disproportionate chronic disease burden are the same neighborhoods with higher rates of poverty, unemployment and less access to quality grocery stores."

The forum takes place Monday, April 15 at McGregor Home, 14900 Private Dr. [44112]. The public is invited.

LifeCycles

CAREER MOVES



Stephanie Turner
to real estate agent,
F.A.S.S. Realty.



Wyonette Cheairs to program officer, Enterprise Development, Inc.

APPOINTMENTS



Bill Patmon, former state representative, has been appointed to the State Racing Commission for a term ending March 31, 2023.

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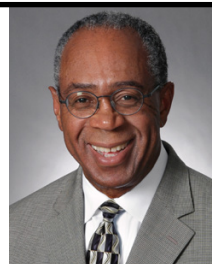
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