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INITIATIVE PETITION

NOTICE: Whoever knowingly signs this petition more than once, signs a name other than his own, or signs when not a legal voter is liable to prosecution.

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2022 AUG 30 AM 9:23
AKRON CITY COUNCIL

To the Council, the legislative authority of the City of Akron, Ohio.

We, the undersigned, qualified electors of the City of Akron, Ohio respectfully petition the legislative authority to forthwith provide by Ordinance, for the submission to the electors of said City, the following proposed amendment to the Charter of said City to-wit:

The following is a full and correct copy of the title and text of the proposed Amendment:

TITLE:

**IMPROVING POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND ESTABLISHING A
CITIZENS' POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARD**

The People of the City of Akron, having determined the need to improve police-community relations in light of the fatal shooting of Jayland Walker and other preventable tragedies involving police-community encounters, hereby amend the Charter of the City of Akron, Ohio to add Section 68a which will read as follows:

Section 68a – Police-Community Relations

(A) The Division of Police shall engage in practices that foster strong community relations with the people of the City of Akron. The Mayor shall prescribe rules and regulations, to be implemented by the Chief of the Division of Police, regarding appropriate policies and programs for the Division of Police to improve community relations by providing ongoing officer training that promotes police de-escalation techniques, race and implicit bias training, non-lethal force options, community policing skills, mediation and conflict management, and mental health crisis intervention techniques. The Division of Police, in service to the people of the City of Akron, shall strive to continuously improve and strengthen ties to the community at-large and all residents. Community relation efforts shall routinely be re-evaluated by the Mayor, Council, and the Chief of the Division of Police, in consultation with the Citizens' Police Oversight Board or its successor and include using new research and best practices on community and police relations. Council shall enact ordinances and resolutions in furtherance of these policies and programs.

(B) There shall be a Citizens' Police Oversight Board which shall consist of nine members. There shall be an open application process for all appointments to the Board. Three members shall be appointed by the Mayor with the consent of Council, and six members shall be appointed by Council by a two-thirds majority of the council members. Members shall be representative of the diverse communities within the City of Akron on the basis of race, sex,

05/15/2021
sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, and geographic region. Each member shall be a resident of the City of Akron and no more than two members may reside in the same ward. In making appointments to the Board, the Mayor and Council shall endeavor to include the following: an attorney with criminal justice and/or civil rights experience; a member between the ages of 18 and 35; a member from the faith-based community; a member with a professional background in mental health services; a member affiliated with an organization that represents economically disadvantaged and underserved citizens of Akron; and a member with a professional background in law enforcement. No member shall be a current employee of the City of Akron. The initial members of the Board shall be appointed within 90 days of the effective date of this section. The term of office for members of the Board shall be four years, except that three of the initial appointments shall be for two-year terms. No member may serve more than eight consecutive years on the Board. The Mayor may remove any member of the Board, upon notice and hearing, with the consent of Council, for malfeasance, misfeasance, nonfeasance, incompetence, incapacity, or neglect of duty.

(C) There shall be an Office of the Independent Police Auditor ("OIPA"), consisting of a full-time Independent Police Auditor, a full-time Deputy Independent Police Auditor, at least one other full-time staff member focused on administrative support and community engagement; and such other personnel as needed. The personnel of the OIPA shall be appointed by a two-thirds vote of the Board. The Independent Police Auditor shall be directed solely by the Board, and the Independent Police Auditor shall be the chief executive of the OIPA and shall solely direct all other employees of the OIPA. Upon the effective date of this section, the individual serving as the Independent Police Auditor for the City of Akron, Ohio shall become the Independent Police Auditor under this section for a period of one (1) year, after which they may be re-appointed by the Board. The Board may terminate the employment of any personnel within the OIPA, upon notice and hearing, for malfeasance, misfeasance, nonfeasance, incompetence, incapacity, or neglect of duty.

(D) The OIPA and the Board shall provide external and independent oversight and review of policing practices within the City of Akron, Ohio. Such oversight shall include but not be limited to the receipt of complaints from the public alleging misconduct by members of the Division of Police, the investigation of alleged misconduct by members of the Division of Police, and the reporting of findings and recommendations concerning alleged misconduct by members of the Division of Police to the Mayor and Council. Upon a vote of two-thirds of the Board, the Board and OIPA may on its own initiative conduct investigations of the operations and policies of the Division of Police and of police officer conduct and report its findings and make recommendations to the Mayor and Council. The Division of Police and any other city office or department shall make available its records relating to any incident or investigation that the OIPA is permitted to monitor or audit under this section, subject to the restrictions of applicable federal and state law. The OIPA and the Board shall have the authority to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of documents, photographs, audio recordings, electronic files, and other tangible evidence relating to any incident or investigation that the OIPA is permitted to monitor or audit under this section, subject to the restrictions of applicable federal and state law.

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(E) Subject to the approval of Council, the Board shall adopt rules providing for the procedures and operations of the Board and the OIPA, including for the scheduling of regular Board meetings and for the election of a Board chair and vice chair. Proceedings of the Board and records of the Board and the OIPA shall be subject to Ohio's public meetings and public records laws, but the Board may by rule provide for greater public access than provided under state law.

(F) The Board and the OIPA shall propose a budget on an annual basis, and funding for the Board and the OIPA shall be appropriated on an annual basis in an amount sufficient to pay for the personnel services and other expenses necessary for the effective operations of the Board and the OIPA. Annual appropriations made for the Board and the OIPA shall not be reduced unless financial circumstances dictate an overall reduction to the City's budget, in the event of which, the annual appropriation made for the Board and the OIPA shall not be reduced in an amount disproportionate to the overall decrease in city expenditures. The Mayor shall set forth the basis for any reduction in writing to the Council and the Board at the time of submission to the Council of any reduction in appropriations as measured against the appropriations made for the previous fiscal year. Within 30 days of the adoption of this section, Council shall make an initial appropriation of \$100,000 for the Board to begin operations and thereafter make a supplemental appropriation for the first fiscal year within 60 days after being requested by the Board.

(G) The Board shall annually issue a report to the community of its activities and recommendations made to the Mayor and Council.

(H) Council shall enact any necessary additional legislation implementing this Section no later than June 30, 2023.

(I) This Section shall be interpreted and applied in a manner that is consistent with the terms of any relevant collective bargaining agreement.

(J) Any provision of this Section held invalid by a court shall be severable from the remaining portions of this Section.

COMMITTEE OF THE PETITIONERS

We hereby designate the following persons as a committee to represent the petitioners in all matters relating to this petition or its circulation:

Rev. Nanette P. Pitt, 325 Mineola Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44313


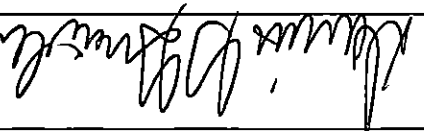
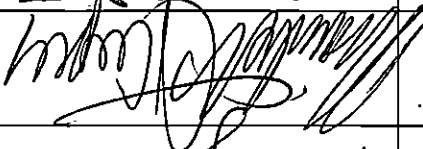
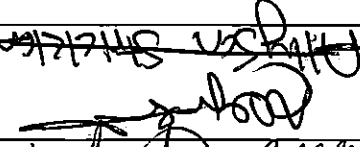
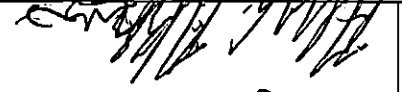
Linda Omobien, 689 Inverness Road, Akron, Ohio 44313

Shammas Malik, 1087 Ellsworth Drive, Akron, Ohio 44313

Dr. Roderick C. Pounds, Sr., 2828 Steelwood Circle, Akron, Ohio 44312

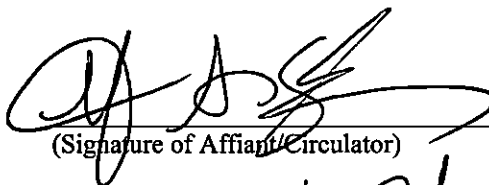
Rev. Dr. Joyce A. Penfield, 247 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron, Ohio 44319

	Signature	Printed Name	Voting Residence, Street Number and Address	City, Village, or Township	County	Date of Signing
1.	Leo Armstrong	Leo Armstrong	1204 Forbes	Akron	Sum	8/6/22
2.	Vincent Taylor	VINCE Taylor	1941 S. Hawkins	AKRON	Summit	8/6/22
3.	Elizabeth M. Watten	Elizabeth M. Watten	325 Melbourne Ave	Akron	Summit	8/6/22
4.	Jean Jones	Jean Jones				
5.	E. Fletcher	Eric Fletcher	631 Vinita Ave.	Akron	Summit	8/6/22
6.	Felicia G. Johnson	Felicia G. Johnson	1320 Weathervane Ln	Akron	Summit	8/7/2022
7.	Tavia Galonski	TAVIA GALONSKI	1137 Allevdale Ave	AKRON	Summit	8/7/2022
8.	Veronica R. Sims	Veronica R. Sims	396 BRIARWOOD Dr	AKRON	SUMMIT	8/7/2022
9.	Joseph J. Tucker	Joseph J. Tucker	436 N. Firestone Blvd	Akron	Summit	8/7/2022
10.	Linda Ambien	Linda Ambien	689 INVERNESS Rd.	AKRON	Summit	8/7/22

11.		Anne S Grantham 1988 Larchmont Rd	Akron OH	Summit	8/20/22
12.		Dennis G Grantham 1988 Larchmont Rd	Akron OH	Summit	8/20/22
13.	Sheila Marshall	Sheila M. Marshall 1991 Grantham Rd	Akron OH	Summit	8/20/22
14.	James I. Parvish	James I. Parvish 1991 Grantham Dr	Akron OH	Summit	8/20/22
15.	James Lee Foster	James Lee Foster 2045 Stabler Rd LYNNE VAN NOSTRAN	Akron OH	Summit	8/20/22
16.	James Lee	James Lee 250 Winston Rd TOWNS E McDaniel	Akron OH	Summit	8/20/22
17.	Nancy C Meadows	Nancy C. Meadows 250 Winston Rd	Akron OH	Summit	8/20/22
18.		Maribeth Cooper 2104 Brookshire Rd	Akron OH	Summit	8/20/22
19.		Allison Strickland 2044 Larchmont Rd	Akron OH	Summit	8/20/22
20.		Alex Ekbar 236 Winston Rd	Akron	Summit	8/20/22

CIRCULATOR STATEMENT
Must be completed and signed by the circulator.

I, N. J. Akbar, declare under penalty of election falsification that I reside at the address appearing below my signature; that I am the circulator of the foregoing petition containing 19 signatures; that I witnessed the affixing of every signature; that all signers were to the best of my knowledge and belief qualified to sign; and that every signature is to the best of my knowledge and belief the signature of the person whose signature it purports to be or of an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.381 of the Revised Code.


(Signature of Affiant/Circulator)

236 Winston Rd
(Address of circulator's permanent residence)
Number and Street, Road or Rural Route

AKron OH 44313
City, Village or Township, State, and Zip Code

**WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY
OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE.**

AFFIDAVIT

State of Ohio

ss

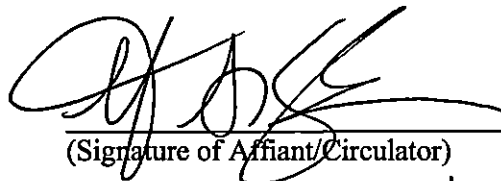
County of Summit

Affiant, having been first duly sworn, deposes and says that he/she is of sound mind, lawful age, and has personal knowledge of the facts stated herein.

I, N. J. Akbar, declare under penalties of perjury and election falsification that I reside at the address appearing below my signature; that I solicited the signatures on the foregoing petition containing 19 signatures; that I witnessed the affixing of every signature; and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, each of the signatures is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be or of an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code, that such persons are electors of the City of Akron, and that they signed the petition with the knowledge of the contents herein.

This affidavit is true to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that whoever commits election falsification is guilty of felony of the fifth degree.

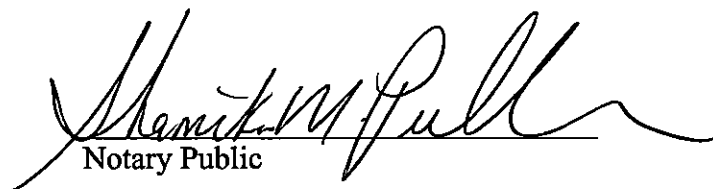
FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.


(Signature of Affiant/Circulator)

236 Winston Rd
(Address of circulator's permanent residence)
Number and Street, Road or Rural Route

Akron, OH 44313
City, Village or Township, State, and Zip Code

Sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, on this 21 day of August 2022.


Notary Public



SHAMIKA MONAE PULLUM
Notary Public
State of Ohio
My Comm. Expires
September 30, 2026

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