

Twitter Thread by Documenter_Keith



Documenter_Keith

[@DocumenterK](#)



Hi, I'm Keith and I'll be live-tweeting today, Wednesday, February 9, 2022, [@CleCityCouncil](#) Development, Planning and Sustainability Committee's COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HEARING ("CBDG") for [@cledocumenters](#) & [@NeighborUpCle](#).

This is the afternoon session that ran between 1:30 PM and 3:30PM.

For the morning session, review this thread:

<https://t.co/KatKak5aZR>

Hi, I'm Keith and I'll be live-tweeting today, Wednesday, February 9, 2022, [@CleCityCouncil](#) Development, Planning and Sustainability Committee's COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HEARINGS ("CBDG") for [@cledocumenters](#) & [@NeighborUpCle](#).

— Documenter_Keith ([@DocumenterK](#)) [February 9, 2022](#)

The CBDG hearing in the afternoon will review

1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

PROPERTY REUTILIZATION

- Cleveland Land Bank
- Community Gardens

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL REVITALIZATION

- Storefront Renovation Program
- Bank Relations



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Office of the Council

PUBLIC NOTICE

Committee Calendar

Cleveland City Hall, Mercedes Cotner Committee Room, 217

601 Lakeside Avenue, N. E., Cleveland, OH 44114

Phone: 216-664-2848 | www.clevelandcitycouncil.org

The following meeting will be held at Cleveland City Hall, 601 Lakeside Avenue, in the Mercedes Cotner Council Committee Room 217.

It will be conducted as an in-person meeting as well as broadcast live in accordance with Ohio's Open Meetings Laws and Section 101.021 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976.

Due to COVID and security protocols, there will be strict limitations on room capacity. Everyone must wear a face mask, and observe all City Hall COVID protocols.

This meeting will be broadcast live on:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ClevelandCityCouncil>

Cleveland TV Channel 20 (Spectrum Cable TV)

TV 20 Livestream online: <http://www.tv20cleveland.com/watch-now/>

For more information go to Cleveland City Council's website: <https://www.clevelandcitycouncil.org>.

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HEARINGS Development, Planning and Sustainability Committee

Chair: Anthony T. Hairston Vice Chair: Jasmin Santana

Members: Kris Harsh; Stephanie D. Howse; Joseph T. Jones; Kerry McCormack; Jenny Spencer

9:00 am to Noon

NDA, CDCS, CITYWIDES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

- Neighborhood Development Activity Grants
- CDC Activity Grants
- Citywide Development Assistance Grants
- Social Services Grants

1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

PROPERTY REUTILIZATION

- Cleveland Land Bank
- Community Gardens

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL REVITALIZATION

- Storefront Renovation Program
- Bank Relations

Ward 3, Kerry McCormack looks like he had some fun.

Coming Up Next



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT HEARINGS

LIVE on **TV20**
We Are Cleveland!



CBDG picks up with Community Gardens and the program Ohio Stae University Extension Summer Sprouts, which repurposes vacant lots into community gardens with vegetables that are distributed to residents.

City requests \$126,000 for the program.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PY2022 CDBG COUNCIL COMMITTEE HEARING**

COMMUNITY GARDENS	\$126,000
NUMBER OF UNITS (GARDEN FACILITIES)	160
CONSOLIDATED PLAN PRIORITY & STRATEGY	NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT, COMMUNITY GARDENS

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Summer Sprout coordinates the use of vacant lots owned by the City, neighborhood agencies and private owners as community gardens. The Department of Community Development will enter into a contract with a non-profit organization for the administration of the program. Eligibility guidelines require that potential locations are designated by the City, the Cleveland Schools, or a non-profit organization (or if private, have permission from the private owner), and have a minimum of five gardeners pledged to work on the site. Funding supports the use of vacant, city-owned property as garden sites, provision of gardening supplies, and technical assistance to developers of neighborhood gardens. Produce generated is distributed among the Cleveland residents maintaining the sites and is donated to local food pantries.

RESOURCES

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Current Grant Year (2021)	\$126,057	-
Previous Grant Year (2020)	\$126,057	\$104,671

Proposed Uses

AMOUNT	ACTIVITY	PROCESS TYPE
\$126,000	Ohio State University Extension Summer Sprouts	Decision Memo

Prior Year Contracts

AMOUNT	ACTIVITY	RECIPIENT
\$126,057	Ohio State University Extension Summer Sprouts	Ohio State University

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Units)

	PROPOSED	ACTUAL
Current Grant Year (2021)	160	Summer 2022
Previous Grant Year (2020)	154	154



Maggie Rivera, the agriculture and resource coordinator for Ohio State University in Cuyahoga County, and Brittany Hubbard, the new Summer Sprouts program coordinator is present.

Right image: Maggie is on the right. Brittany is on the left

Margaret H Rivera, M.S.

OSU EXTENSION » CUYAHOGA COUNTY » MARGARET H RIVERA, M.S.

Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Rivera.482@osu.edu

Specialization: Urban Agriculture and Horticulture
Phone: 330-599-7710

Biography:

Maggie joined OSU Extension-Cuyahoga County as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator in September 2017. She has been working in the urban agriculture and horticulture field for the past ten years. She earned her B.S. in biology at John Carroll University with an environmental studies concentration, and M.S. in community-based food systems from Michigan State University. Maggie completed post-graduate internships on farms in Ohio and Vermont and she has lived and worked on farms in Ireland.

Learn about Summer Sprouts here:

<https://t.co/P1oesO1AVT>

Maggie Rivera summarizes a Summer Sprout's report but there are little details she actually articulates - it's in the report which we don't have in front of us.

But we do have Summer Sprouts 2020 Report available here,

<https://t.co/crbHzYDTSP>

W1, Jones tells the Summer Sprout crew that "They do a wonderful job and that this is one of those that really works and functions."

W3, McCormack seconds Jones' comments and commends the OSU team for the portfolio of work they do.

Cleveland City Council Member

Joe Jones, Ward 1



Committees

Chair, Mayor's Appointments

Vice Chair, Safety

Member, Development, Planning, Sustainability

Member, Municipal Services & Properties

Member, Workforce, Education, Training & Youth Development

CONTACT:

jjones@clevelandcitycouncil.org

Office: 216.664.4944



Documenters

POWERED BY CITY BUREAU & NEIGHBOR UP

Summer Sprout's crew seems happy.




Ward 13, Kris Harsh asks "How long does Summer Sprout anticipates running this program? I recall eight years ago I was told some of it was an experiment was to find what pollinators would work best in urban areas."

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=332A_vWshKA

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PROPERTY REUTILIZATION

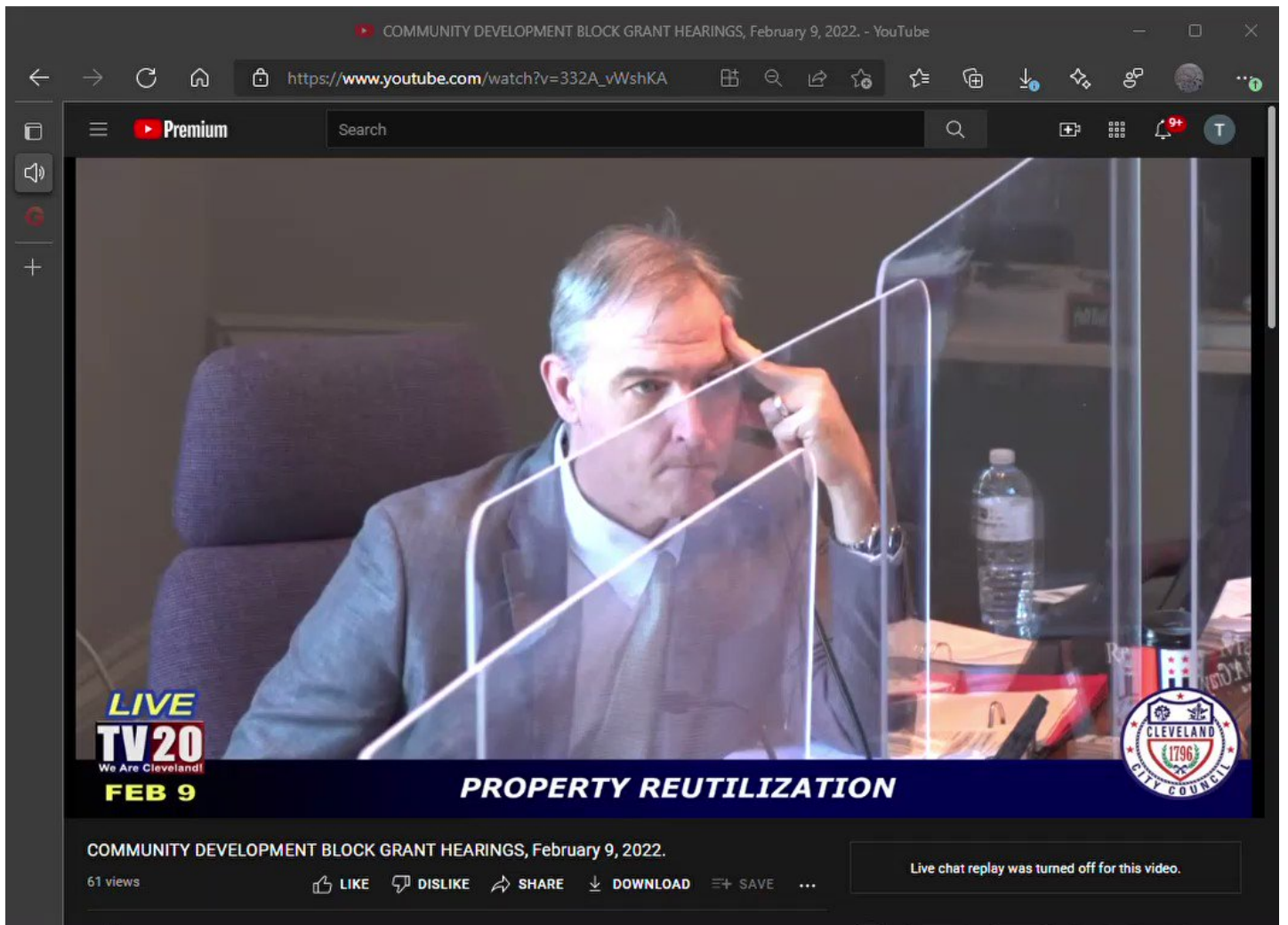
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CLEVELAND 1796 CITY OF CLEVELAND

Rivera replies, "Summer Sprout is a very long running program, it has partnered with the City since 1977. The program you may be thinking about is a pollinator project ... by Mary Gardener who took some parcels and created pollinator gardens. That project wrapped up..."



W13, Harsh "The Summer Sprout program is intended to run indefinitely?"

Rivera, "Yeah, we would love it to."

Commissioner Green chimes in that Summer Sprout is the longest running program with great results but they've tested other programs.

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PROPERTY REUTILIZATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HEARINGS, February 9, 2022.

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W13, Harsh asks "Can we say definitively that at \$800 a lot, is it cheaper to operate Summer Sprout than to maintain the lots for grass cutting and all that?"

Commissioner Green, "The onerous is not on the City to add all the benefits to Summer Sprout that are required."

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W13, Harsh returns to his question and point, "What is the cost for grass cutting versus sponsoring a Summer Sprout?"

Harsh "It's a 1,000 per lot per year. It's cheaper to have a garden."

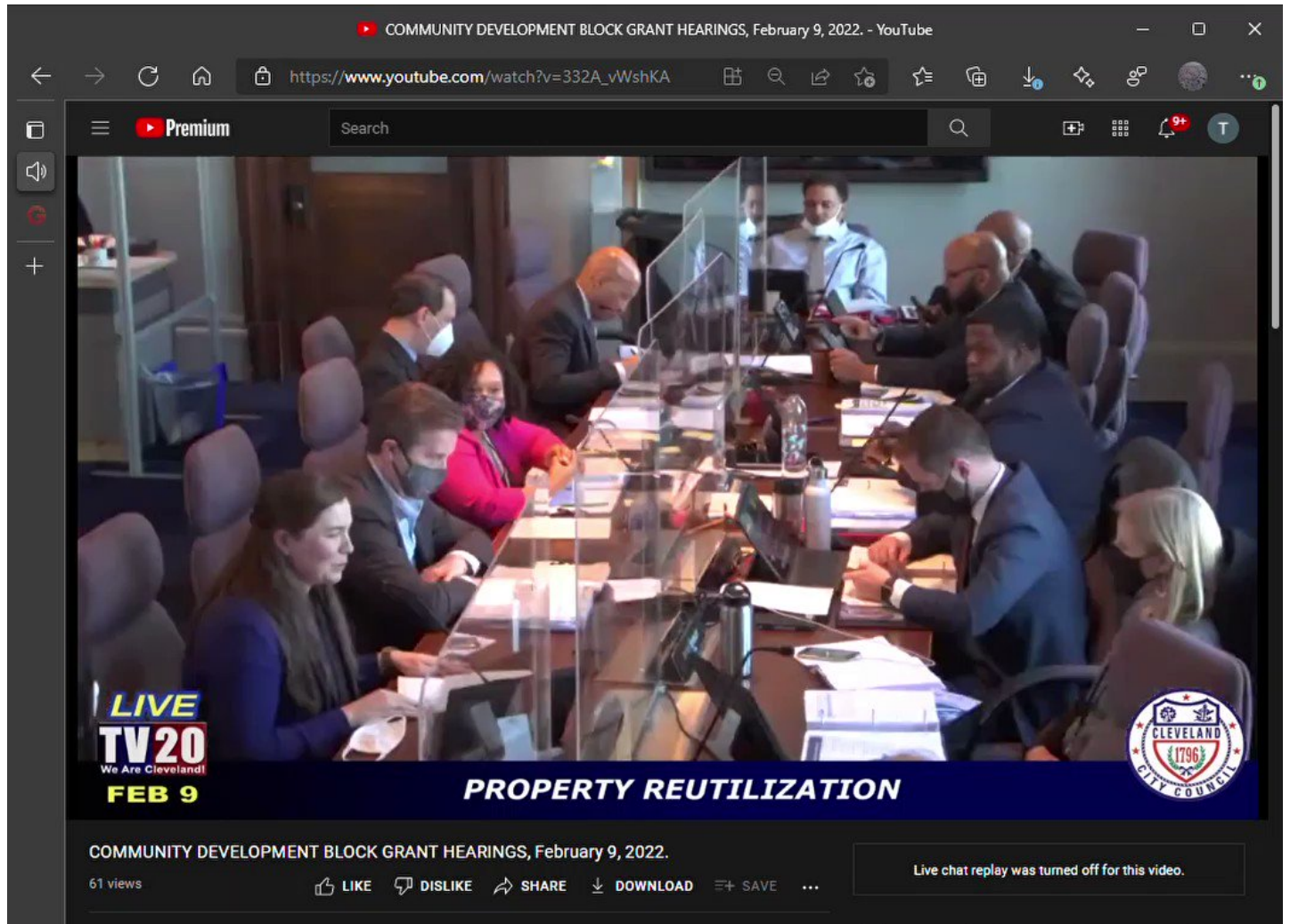
W10, Hairston mentions this point has been made in the past but there's been pushback.



W4, Deborah Gray enquires about the process to get involved as some of her residents are excited about the prospects.



Rivera answer it's a good time to get involved and explains the process, which includes a "Dig In Community Gardening" training class. By Fall an applicant will learn if they will be accepted.



W4, Gray "Is the class still \$50.00?"

Rivera, "Yes, but we provide the course book so it is like \$25.00."

W15, Jenny Spencer enquires about market gardens. Rivera informs her that Summer Sprout does not allow grown produce to be sold but they will direct market gardens to others who could help.



Commissioner Green notes that Market Gardens can become a taxable lot where as Landbank lots are not.



CDBG reviews funds requested for Storefront Renovations.

Requested \$309,889

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PY2022 CDBG COUNCIL COMMITTEE HEARING**

STOREFRONT RENOVATION	\$567,000*
NUMBER OF UNITS (BUSINESSES)	35
CONSOLIDATED PLAN PRIORITY & STRATEGY	ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, STOREFRONT RENOVATION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The goal of the Storefront Renovation Program is to keep Cleveland’s neighborhood retail districts economically strong, visually attractive and competitive in a regional shopping market while also providing goods and services to the surrounding areas’ residents. Rebate funds are utilized to provide project rebates to Storefront Renovation Program (SRP) applicants who complete comprehensive exterior renovations on all visible elevations of eligible building types as seen from the main street and/or install new business signage on already rehabilitated buildings in retail districts of the city. All renovations are completed in accordance with the design standards established in The Cleveland Storefront Renovation Program Design Manual, which is based on the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards.

RESOURCES

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Current Grant Year (2021)	\$309,889	\$309,889*
Previous Grant Year (2020)	\$309,889	\$309,889*

Proposed Uses

AMOUNT	ACTIVITY	PROCESS TYPE
\$323,000	Storefront Staffing	Program Delivery
\$177,000	Storefront Grants	Rolling Application

Prior Year Contracts

AMOUNT	ACTIVITY	RECIPIENT
\$50,000	Building Renovation	Three Black Knights LLC Bldg. 1 - 648-660 E. 185 St.
\$50,000	Building Renovation	Three Black Knights LLC Bldg. 2 - 662-670 E. 185 St.
\$30,000	Building Renovation	Urban Leverage LLC -Bldg. 1 - 678-688 E. 185 St.
\$30,000	Building Renovation	Urban Leverage LLC Bldg. 2 - 676 E. 185 St.
\$30,000	Building Renovation	Dante's Pizza - 4200 Rocky River Dr.
\$30,000	Building Renovation	Stephanie Paoletta Bldg. - 1385 W. 117 St.
\$25,000	Building Renovation	Solstice Bldg. - 1101 Carnegie Ave.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Units)

	PROPOSED	ACTUAL
Current Grant Year (2021)	35	28 ¹
Previous Grant Year (2020)	35	45 ²

¹ 5 buildings with 3 signs funded with \$139,333 in CDBG funds. 20 sign-only projects funded with \$71,209 in Kiosk funds.

² 27 buildings with or without signage funded with \$353,332 in CDBG funds. 18 signs-only projects funded with \$62,117 in Kiosk funds.

* SRP Staff costs included in Grant Year Budgets

Commissioner Green introduces the Storefront Renovation program.

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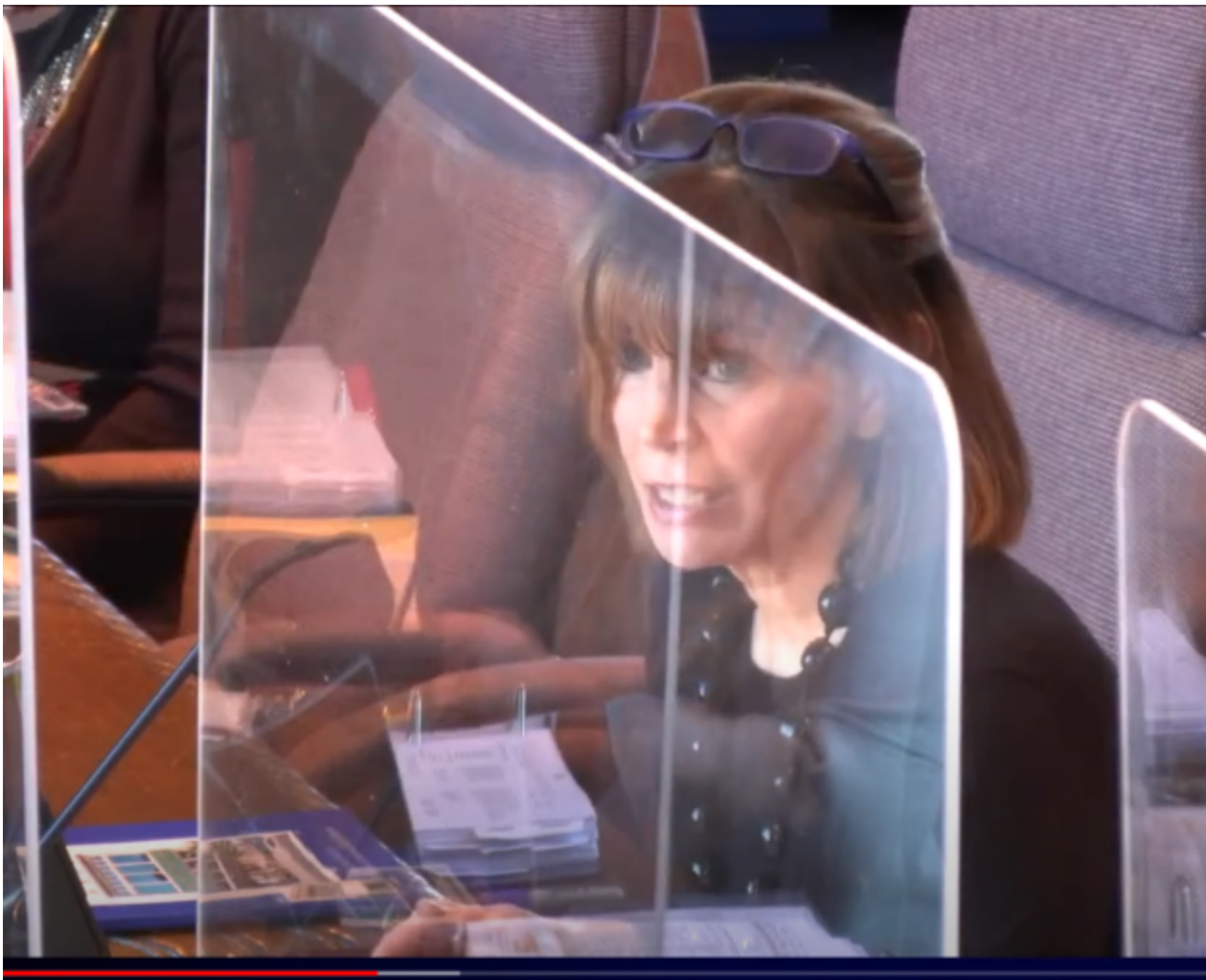
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Commercial Revitalization Office Manager Terry Sander speaks on the program for 8 minutes.

W10, Hairston enquires about changes in the program from the Federal government.



Sander shares that in 2020 HUD required Phase One environmental reviews to be paid out of pocket by the applicants.

The team presented a different approach to HUD and HUD accepted it. Typically, as long as no ground breaking is occurring, no phase one environmental is required.



W10, Hairston enquires about a couple different business, a car shop and a dry cleaning business, and Sanders answers his questions about

W1 Jones, "this Program needs to go through majors changes as it does not apply to the east Side and one of the reasons it is unattainable is all the regulatory processes you have to go through."



Sander acknowledges that their salaries are covered by CBDG funding and shares one of the problems with HUD's regulation is the high costs of contractors.



W1 Jones, "We can't use this program effectively on the East Side of City. The way we have the program parameters set up is discriminating."

Jones calls for a hybrid program to be created.



W10, Hairston states it is a rebate program.

Sanders states it is 50% program - for 50,000 dollars spent to update your business, you will receive 25,000 dollars back.

W3, McCormack is a fan of the program, "This is truly a phenomenal program. ... This is truly a spectacular program."

He calls to scale the program to meet the criticisms provided by Jones. "Let's invest a whole lot more resources and expand it more."



W10, Hairston seconds this.

W14, Spencer also commends the program.

CBDG reviews funding request for a new program - Bank Relation and Community Reinvestment, with an ask of \$100,000.

It appears to work to increase lending and accessing to safe and affordable banking services to low and moderate-income residents.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PY2022 CDBG COUNCIL COMMITTEE HEARING**

BANK RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT	\$100,000
NUMBER OF UNITS (PROGRAMS)	1

CONSOLIDATED PLAN PRIORITY & STRATEGY	TEN-YEAR HOUSING PLAN, STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
---------------------------------------	--

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Bank Relations continues to foster partnerships with banks, nonprofits, federal regulators, and advocacy groups to increase lending and access to safe and affordable banking services for residents and businesses in the City of Cleveland, especially for low- and moderate-income households.

RESOURCES

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Current 2021 Grant Year (2021)	\$100,000	-
Previous Full Year (2020)	-	-

Proposed Uses

AMOUNT	ACTIVITY	PROCESS TYPE
\$100,000	Banking Relations Loan Loss Reserves	Program Delivery

Prior Year Contracts

AMOUNT	ACTIVITY	RECIPIENT
-	Community Reinvestment Plan- Key Bank	-
-	Community Reinvestment Plan- Huntington Bank	-
-	Community Reinvestment Plan- PNC	-
-	Community Reinvestment Plan- US Bank	-
-	Community Reinvestment Plan- First National Bank	-

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Units)

	PROPOSED	ACTUAL
Current Grant Year (2021)	N/A	N/A
Previous Grant Year (2020)	N/A	N/A



Aisha on the bank relation situation, part 1

Policy tools at the Federal level include Community Investment Act and the Bank Mergers and Community Investment Agreements to address redlining



Aisha on the bank situation, part 2

Community Development has met with bank leaders to discuss the issues of lending.

Local level policy tool, Community Investment based on Ordinance Chapter 178.05

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Transcript

71:56 issue

Aisha on the bank situation, part 3

"We need an all-hands-on-deck approach to how we engage the financial community in Cleveland, that's what we have begun in the past 2 years."

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Transcript
73:37 will respond to the rfp um there are


Aisha on the bank situation, part 4

She elaborates on meeting with banks and community partners and developed a community investment priorities sheet to send to the banks.

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Transcript
75:23 community partners i was actually 18 of


Aisha on the bank situation, part 5

On other equity driven initiatives such as bank-on coalition, provides access to safe and affordable banking accounts to low & moderate income residents & residents of color.

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77:09 so that that is some of the the ways in

Aisha on the bank situation, part 6

"I will stop now as I realize I can continue to go on."

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78:54 as a part of driving this initiative we

AD Wackers on the lack of investments by area financial institutions, part 1.

He notes the Federal funds allow 30 million but really need 300 million invested by the banking institutions.

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1:20:03 / 2:12:19

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Transcript

79:55 director you you set up as if you want

AD Wackers continues, "There should be no reason why the City of Cleveland doesn't have 14 agreements with the 14 banks that have retail branches throughout this City."

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81:26 the city of cleveland uh does not have a

W10, Hairston agrees. "That makes absolute no sense at all. No one is being held accountable. No one is being held to task. ... We have ordinances on the books that allow us to do many things that we are not taking advantage of."



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The image shows a YouTube video player interface. The video title is "COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HEARINGS, February 9, 2022." The video content shows a group of people seated around a long table in a hearing room, with microphones and laptops. A banner at the bottom of the video reads "LIVE TV20 We Are Cleveland! FEB 9 COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL REVITALIZATION" and includes the Cleveland City Council logo. The video player interface includes a search bar, a "Premium" badge, and a "Transcript" button. The video has 61 views and is currently at the 82:35 mark.

W1 Jones shares his personal experiences with lending discrimination while trying to acquire a loan for home renovation. If he lived in Little Italy, Downtown, 65% of the West Side, or one of the suburbs he could get a loan but not on the south east side of Cleveland.

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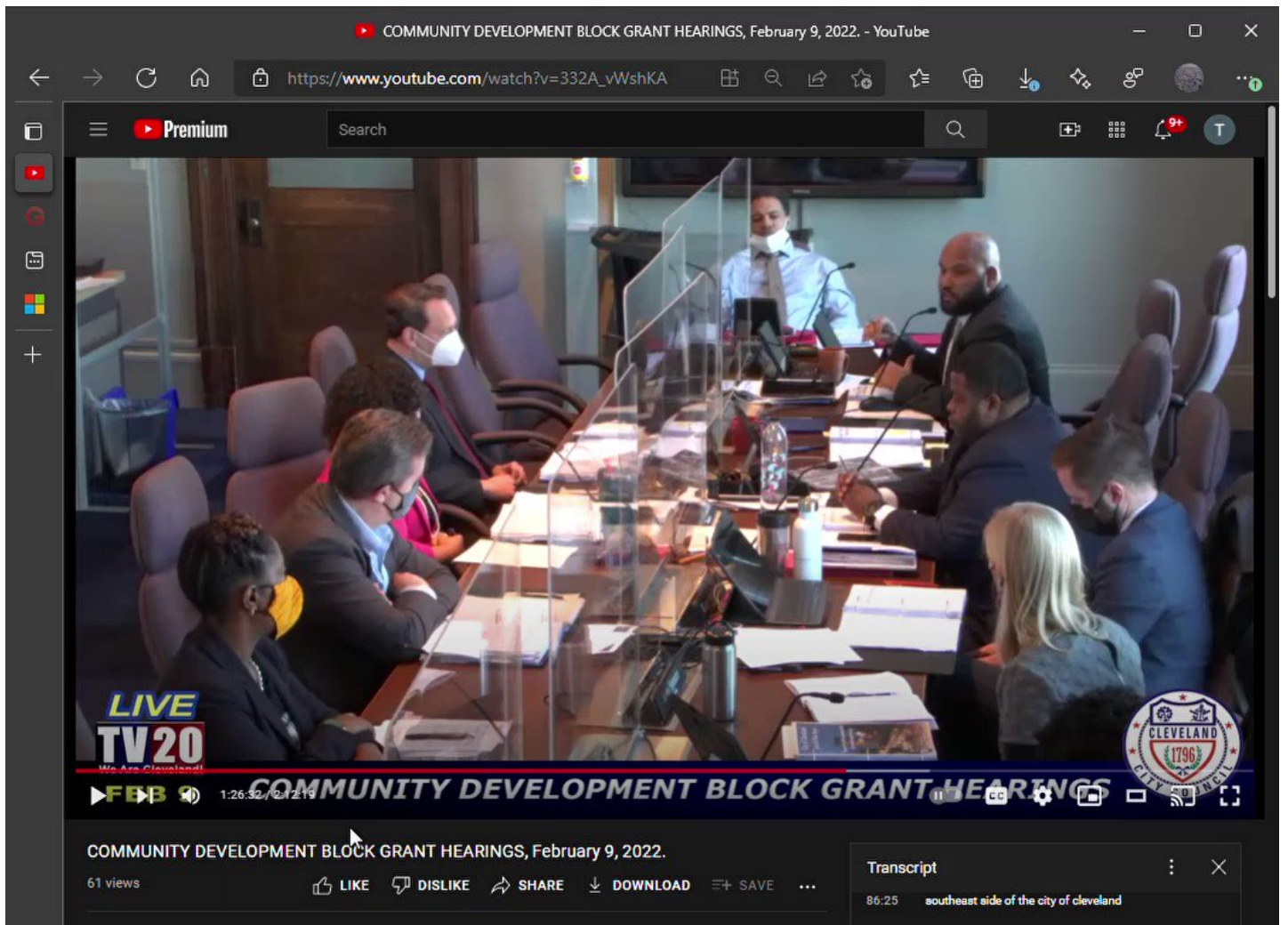
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Transcript

84:36 from our committee we'll start with

W1 Jones continues, "It hurts me to my core. To live in a community and to be starved out. ... When we talk about the Storefront program...they're doing the same thing as the financial institutions. They're starving us out."



W1 Jones, "If we don't have the cash flow, if we don't have the resources, we can't change the conditions of our community. It is driving people outside of my community. They leaving because they don't have any options or opportunities and not getting any kind of services."


Aisha shares the ordinance number 178.05 Banking Services and briefly summarizes it.

Jones asks for the last time it was utilized by the City of Cleveland and shares his memories of a strong Mayor.

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87:30 at this table here they're doing the

Jones continues criticizing the banks and the Federal guidelines that has allowed their massive wealth with no real investment in Cleveland.

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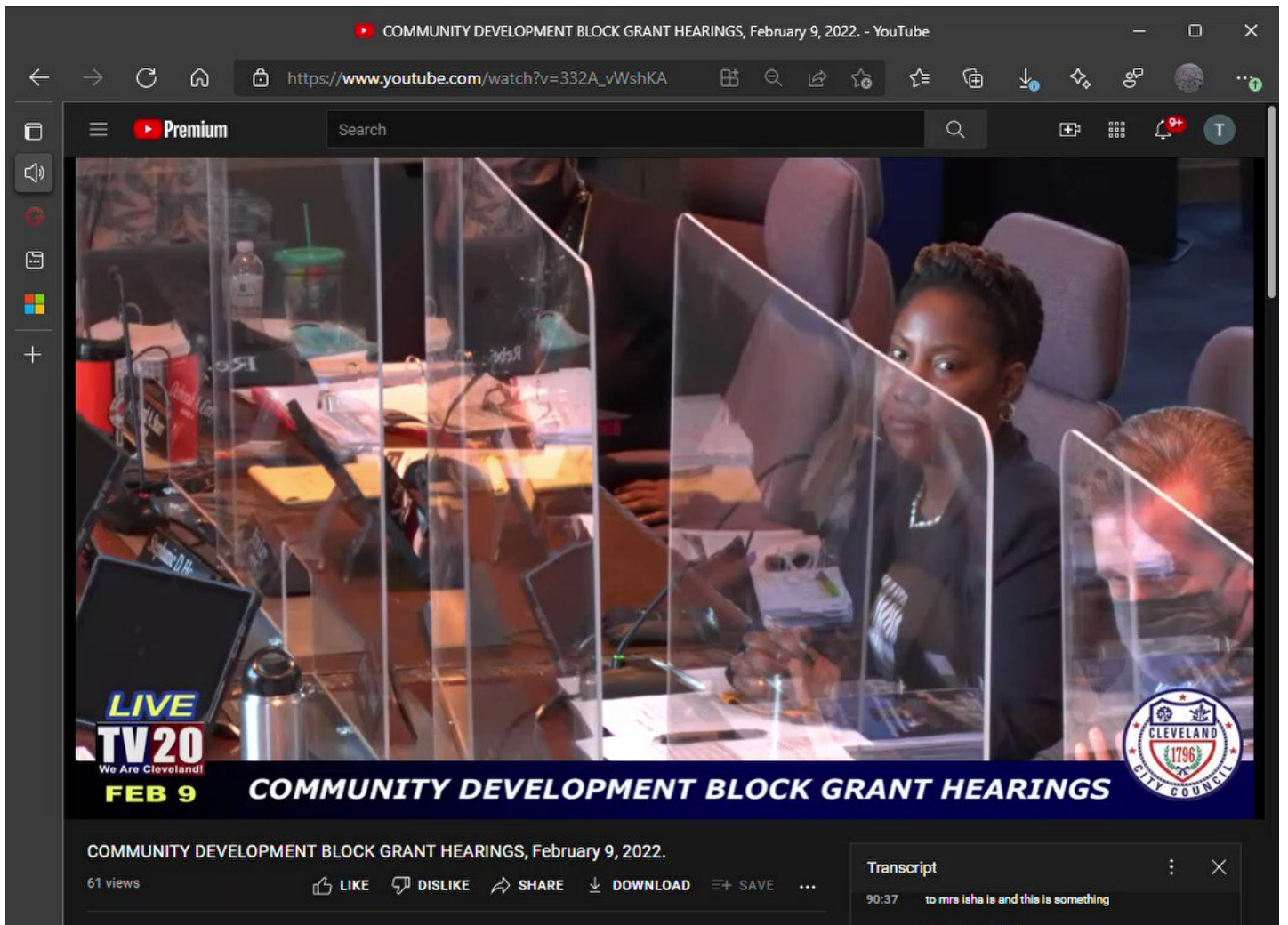
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Transcript

89:30 the the first uh you know to my

Jones continues, "If we lose the City of Cleveland, it will impact the surrounding suburbs as well."



W7, Howse asks for Aisha's full name and her title.

Aisha Weeks, Bank Relations Manager.

Howse wants a list of the City of Cleveland's deposits and in which banks. She is informed the Department of Finance has that information.




Howse enquires about the dollar amount mentioned in Aisha's presentation. Aisha explains the number (48 billion) mentioned and provides more details concerning mergers.

Howse also asks if there are written agreements with local banks. There aren't.

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1:40:42 / 2:12:19

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Transcript

100:34 you said three did you say three billion

Howse shares a report she read concerning banking institutions and their lending practices correlated to race demographics.

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102:16 that we

Howse elaborates on the problem with acquiring a loan and calls on City Council to change the rules.

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Michael D. Plummer

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Transcript
104:00 the

Howse, "I specifically want to target the financial institutions that have all of the City of Cleveland money where the same people who can't get a loan, pay taxes, and the money ends up in the banks. ... These banks don't want to be true partners with the City."

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HEARINGS, February 9, 2022.

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105:30 debt to income ratio but they're paying

Howse, "We're always going to be frustrated if we don't try."

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107:01 where the rubber meets the world we have

W3, McCormack agrees to formalizing a subcommittee & a discussion with Finance Chair.

W2 Kevin Bishop shares that he's also been discriminated against financially, how frustrating it is, & seconds the comments by Howse.

"It is organized racism and it is time we take a stand."



W1 Jones calls upon Hairston to form a subcommittee to address these issues.



W13, Harsh "It's \$100,000 for 1 unit, how does that work?"

AG Wacker, "1 unit is 1 program."

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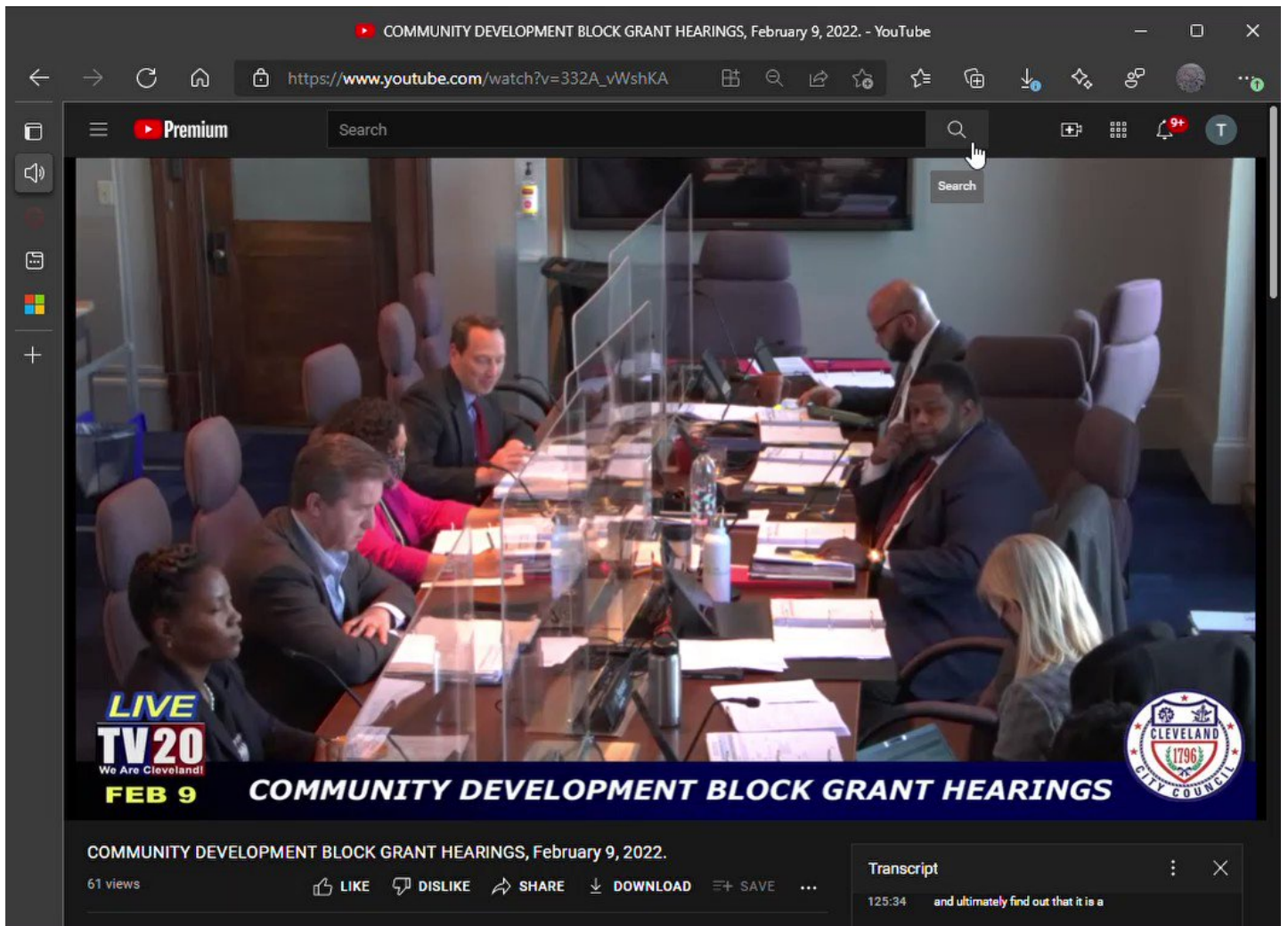
Transcript

124:41 thank you chairman uh i'm still a little

Harsh proposes breaking down deposits into smaller amounts to use smaller banks.

AG Wacker, "Community Development does not know how Finance Department banks."

Additional discussion occurs about the exact use of the funds.



Today's Wednesday, February 9, 2022, @CleCityCouncil

Development, Planning and Sustainability Committee's COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HEARINGS
Morning session adjourned at or around 3:42 PM.

Remember to check out recorded notes and live-tweets for other governance meetings. They are posted on the Cleveland Documenter's website, access past meetings here:

<https://t.co/bh8hUMTBGG>

To become involved and for more meeting coverage, check out <https://t.co/rgwG6GTw5t>. Have questions? Think we got something wrong? Send any enquiries on the meeting or these tweets to [@cledocumenters](https://twitter.com/cledocumenters)

Or email us at documenters@neighborhoodgrants.org