

North Fairmount Community Council

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: February 10, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Carll Street Family Center, 1769 Carll Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45225

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Darlene Capell** at 6:00 PM.

Opening Prayer

An opening prayer was provided by **Mary Yates**.

Attendance

Attendance included **Darlene Capell** (President), **Barbara Palmer** (Secretary), **Deanna Franklin** (Treasurer), **Toni Hawkins** (Speaker Representative), **Mary Yates** (Prayer Leader), **Sergeant Hicks** (Cincinnati Police Department), **Brenda Waldron** (Millvale Health Center), **Erika Black Johnson** (Communities United for Action), **Damon Lynch** (Congressional Candidate), **Gilbert Williams** (Voter Engagement), **Mary Metzmeier** (Working In Neighborhoods), and **Fred** (North Fairmount resident), along with additional council members and residents. A total of **18 individuals** were in attendance.

Welcome

Darlene Capell welcomed attendees and thanked residents, council members, and community partners for their participation and continued engagement in neighborhood activities.

Early Community Reports

Sergeant Hicks of the Cincinnati Police Department reported a significant decrease in crime within the district. Only 3 incidents were reported during the reporting period compared to 30 incidents during the same timeframe last year. No incidents were reported during the first 2 weeks of January. District-wide crime is down approximately 40 percent and response times have improved by about 10 to 15 percent. Sixteen new police recruits will increase patrol coverage in the district.

Damon Lynch, a candidate for Ohio Congressional District 1, introduced himself and emphasized the importance of voter participation in the upcoming May primary election.

Gilbert Williams encouraged residents to verify their voter registration status and discussed opportunities for residents to become precinct executives and remain engaged in the electoral process.

Treasurer's Report – Deanna Franklin

Deanna Franklin reported that membership dues remain \$5 per month or \$60 per year, with \$193 collected to date. The City approved \$9,666 in Neighborhood Support Program funding for each neighborhood this year, a slight decrease from last year's \$10,000 allocation. NSP training sessions will take place February 17, February 20, February 25, and February 26. NSP applications typically open from March through June, and awarded funds must be spent by November 15.

Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was made by **Chip Davis** and seconded by **Barbara Palmer**. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

President's Report – Darlene Capell

Darlene Capell shared updates regarding council initiatives and encouraged residents to remain involved in neighborhood activities and council programs. She also informed those present that her name will appear on the upcoming ballot as a candidate for the Precinct Executive position as she seeks to serve in that role.

Community Partner Reports

Brenda Waldron from Millvale Health Center provided information on services available including adult medical care, pediatrics, dental services, pharmacy services, OBGYN care, and WIC programs. She noted that services are available on a sliding-scale fee regardless of insurance status and advised residents that norovirus has been detected in wastewater.

Erika Black Johnson from Communities United for Action discussed rising energy costs, Duke Energy rate increases, and concerns about data center development in underserved neighborhoods.

Mary Metzmeier from Working In Neighborhoods announced a two-part workshop with Legal Aid to assist residents with wills, transfer-on-death deeds, and property title concerns. Part 1 will take place April 21 from approximately 5:00–6:30 PM and Part 2 will take place May 5 from approximately 3:30–7:30 PM by appointment.

Fred shared information about Cincinnati Building Trades apprenticeship programs, including trades such as bricklayers, carpenters, electricians, and welders, noting starting wages around \$23.44 per hour plus benefits.

Speaker Representative Report – Toni Hawkins

Toni Hawkins shared feedback from residents and encouraged continued participation and collaboration between community members and council leadership.

Announcements

Residents were informed that the Produce Pop-Up Market will be held March 14. The property succession and estate planning workshops announced earlier will be held April 21 and May 5. Additional volunteer opportunities with the Mill Creek Alliance are expected later this spring.

Meeting Highlights & Key Actions

The meeting highlighted improved crime statistics, continued community engagement, and available workforce opportunities through the Cincinnati Building Trades apprenticeship programs. Neighborhood Support Program funding was confirmed at \$9,666 per neighborhood.

Next Meeting

The next North Fairmount Community Council meeting will be held March 10, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Carl Street Family Center.

Prepared by: Barbara Palmer – Barb.nfcc@gmail.com