

RESOLUTION NO. 086-2025(COTW), *First Reading*

By Vice President Russell

A Resolution to save neighborhood Social Security Offices, Medicare and Medicaid; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, neighborhood Social Security offices and employees have faithfully served the public in communities across the country since 1935; and

WHEREAS, Social Security benefits have provided the best protection against falling into poverty for Americans since the inception of Social Security in 1935; and

WHEREAS, local Social Security offices, staffed with trained civil servants across the nation, provide service to millions of Americans each year, in person and by telephone; and

WHEREAS, 20 percent of staff in local SSA offices are veterans; and

WHEREAS, 9.7 million Americans receiving Social Security benefits are veterans; and

WHEREAS, millions of veterans and their families depend on their monthly checks from Social Security for housing and food; and

WHEREAS, older adults are the fastest growing population of homelessness, including thousands of veterans and families; and

WHEREAS, more than 11,000 American reach retirement age each day; and

WHEREAS, staffing at the Social Security Administration has fallen to a 50-year low while workloads have increased; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has recently announced a plan to cut staff dramatically, to take federal tax dollars from our communities and transfer those dollars to billionaires by reducing their taxes; and

WHEREAS, cutting costs leads to closing neighborhood Social Security offices, dozens have already been announced; and

WHEREAS, millions of American depend on nearby offices for filing for benefits, resolving problems with payments, work records, generating SSNs, providing replacement SSN cards, income and award letters and applications for retirement, disability and SSI; and

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WHEREAS, more than 79 million Americans receive Medicaid and the U.S. House budget resolution in 2025 plans steep cuts to Medicaid to provide tax breaks for the 1%; and

WHEREAS, Medicare serves more than 68 million Americans and is also targeted for cuts by the current Administration, to cut taxes on the richest Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That this body opposes the closing of local Social Security offices, and other social security staffing cuts,

SECTION 2. That this body supports robust staffing and local office facilities to serve the public in a timely manner in this community and across Ohio and the United States.

SECTION 3. That this body opposes state and federal cuts in Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security benefits.

SECTION 4. That this body supports the following House Bills, introduced March 5, 2025, "Keeping Our Field Offices Open Act" (H.R. 1876), "Protecting Americans Social Security Data Act" (H.R. 1877) and "The Social Security Expansion Act" (S. 770).

SECTION 5. It is found and determined that all formal actions of the Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements.

SECTION 6. Notice of passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights, or by posting the full text of this Resolution to the City of Cleveland Heights website.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to take immediate action in opposition to the closure of local Social Security offices. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

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TONY CUD
President of Council



ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED: May 5, 2025

Presented to Mayor: 05/07/2025 Effective date: 05/16/2025*

KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor

*Effective date per Article IV, Section 5 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights