

ORDINANCE NO. 134-2025(COTW), *First Reading*

By Council President Cuda and  
Councilmembers Posch, Cobb, Larson, and  
Petras

An Ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor to execute an engagement letter with Singerman, Mills, Desberg, & Kauntz and Stephen L. Byron to serve as independent legal counsel for City Council; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, this Council has the authority, pursuant to Article III, Section 6 of the Charter of the City of Cleveland Heights, to “hire or engage \*\*\* consultants, independent contractors, or other persons as it as it deems necessary for the proper discharge of its duties” and wishes to engage them for such purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Charter further provides that “\*\*\* [A]ny \*\*\* person so \*\*\* hired, or engaged by the Council shall serve at the pleasure of the Council and shall report to the President of Council, or the designee of the President of Council, as their supervisor”; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines that Singerman, Mills, Desberg, & Kauntz, Co. L.P.A. and Stephen L. Byron are qualified to serve as independent legal counsel for this Council

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO:

SECTION 1. The Mayor shall be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to execute an engagement letter with the law firm of Singerman, Mills, Desberg & Kauntz to provide independent counsel for City Council, substantially in accordance with the draft proposal attached hereto as Exhibit A and signed by attorney Stephen Byron.

SECTION 2. The Finance Director is authorized and directed to sign the Certificate of Available Funds that is appended to the engagement letter and transmit copies of the executed legislation and engagement letter to Singerman, Mills, Desberg, & Kauntz and Stephen L. Byron

SECTION 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of the Council relating to the adoption of this Ordinance 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.

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SECTION 4. Notice of the passage of this Ordinance 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 to the City of Cleveland Heights website.

SECTION 5. It is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the necessity to retain outside counsel to assist Council with pressing legislative business at the earliest possible time. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more members elected or appointed to this Council, this Ordinance 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 period allowed by law.



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TONY CUDDA  
President of Council



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ADDIE BALESTER  
Clerk of Council

PASSED: June 25, 2025

Presented to Mayor: 06/30/2025 Effective Date: 07/06/2025

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KAHLIL SEREN  
Mayor

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