

State Representative Richard Dell'Aquila

Ohio House District 15

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| July 2024



Committees:

- *Financial Institutions (Ranking Member)*
- *Aviation and Aerospace*
- *Commerce and Labor*
- *Economic and Workforce Development*
- *Ways and Means*
- *9-1-1 Steering Committee*

Dear Neighbors,

It has been an extraordinarily busy few weeks here in Columbus. As I am writing this letter, the House is recessing for our dinner break after a day long voting session on a number of bills. We are returning back later this evening to consider several more pieces of legislation, and also a few bills for possible concurrence coming to the House from the Senate.

In this newsletter, you will find information on the approximately \$100 Million in Capital Fund investments for projects we were able to obtain for District 15 and for all of Cuyahoga County, as well as a short history regarding the historical significance of our Independence Day celebration. Hopefully you will find this information interesting and useful, along with the other items herein.

Well, time is drawing short and I am about to return from my office to the Statehouse to complete the rest of my work there. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office if I can ever be of assistance to you and your family.

I wish you and your families an enjoyable and, most importantly, safe Fourth of July holiday!

Sincerely,

Richard Dell'Aquila

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Independence Day

Independence Day, July 4th, is the day we celebrate the birthday of the United States of America. It is recognized as the day in 1776 when the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, by which the original thirteen colonies declared their freedom from British rule.



Before that date, friction between the colonies and Great Britain had been growing for years. The colonies wanted more authority over their own governance and taxation. However, the British monarchy was suffering financial problems after the Seven Years War (a world war with France we in North America called the “French and Indian War”). Parliament decided that the colonies should help pay the expenses incurred for their defense in that war, and passed various tax laws opposed by the colonists for which their opinions were not considered beforehand. This controversy became embodied in the now famous objection, “No taxation without representation.”

One of the heavy taxes the colonists objected to was for tea imported from Britain. In 1773, angry colonists raided British ships in Boston Harbor and dumped their cargoes of tea overboard, now known as the “Boston Tea Party.” An angry Parliament then passed a series of laws to punish the colonists, which were criticized here as the “Intolerable Acts.”

In the following year, trying to convince Britain to change these policies, the First Continental Congress decided that the colonies would no longer trade with Britain or even use British goods. As the angry rift between both sides grew wider, Britain expanded these policies until 1775, when the Revolutionary War began at Bunker Hill between Massachusetts colonists and the British army. King George III would not address the colonies’ grievances, which led to the formal resolution of independence from Great Britain written by Thomas Jefferson, with some editing by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. On July 4, 1776, Congress adopted the final draft of the Declaration of Independence, which famously states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

We are fortunate that this noble expression has become one of the pillars of our republic. However, some of our citizens, many who fought and died for our independence were not allowed to share in the realization of those ideals until achieving their freedom in the Civil War. By a remarkable coincidence, both Thomas Jefferson, a slaveholding president from Virginia, and John Adams, a non-slaveholding president from Massachusetts both died on July 4, 1826.

Thanks to the work of these remarkable individuals, today the United State of America stands as the greatest country in the world, where we are free to believe as we will, achieve as we can, and truly enjoy the gifts of freedom the Framers crafted for us in our founding documents. As we enjoy that which was built for us, we must also remember to preserve it. So, as we celebrate another Independence Day with parades, fireworks, speeches, and barbecues, it is important to pass along that legacy to our descendants together with these reminders. Happy Independence Day 2024 to all of you!

Advocacy and Around the District

CUYAHOGA COUNTY—Due to critical capacity, Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter is offering reduced option fees on all dogs. CCAS is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 10:30am—4:00pm, and Sunday from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. [Click here](#) to view available and lost pets.



Ready to make a
new friend?

BROADVIEW HEIGHTS—Home Days returns on **July 11th-14th!** [Click here](#) to see the full schedule list and to learn more.

2024 HOME DAYS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY 11 JULY 2024 Hours 5:00pm-11:00 pm		
5:00 PM	OPEN (Rides, Food, Beer Garden)	
6:00 PM	Mayor's 5K & 1 Mile Walk/Run Registration	Outside Pool Area
6:30-8:30 PM	Cuyahoga Slim Band	Amphitheater
7:00 PM	Mayor's 5K & 1 Mile Walk/Run Race Begins	Outside Pool Area
9:00-11:00 PM	Buffalo Ryders Band	Amphitheater
10:00 PM	Fireworks Display	Best View: Football Field
11:00 PM	CLOSE	
FRIDAY 12 JULY 2024 Hours 5:00pm-11:00 pm		
5:00 pm	OPEN (Rides, Food, Beer Garden)	
5:00-9:00 pm	Caricature Artists	By the Police Tent
5:00-6:00 PM	Aaron Dussing Polka Band	Amphitheater
6:30-8:30PM	Clarence & the Beekeepers	Amphitheater
9:00-11:00 PM	The Talkbox Band	Amphitheater
10:00 pm	Fireworks Display	Best View: Football Field
11:00 PM	CLOSE	
SATURDAY 13 JULY 2024 Hours 3:00pm-11:00 pm		
3:00 PM	OPEN (Rides, Food, Beer Garden)	
3:00-7:00 PM	Little Tykes Carwash - Sgt. Clean Carwash	By the Police Tent
4:00-5:00 PM	DR UR Awesomes FOAM PARTY	Football Field
4:00-7:00 PM	Black Smith, Tim Dodd	By the Historical Society Tent
5:30-6:30 pm	MAGICIAN Rick Smith Jr.	Amphitheater
7:00-8:00 PM	Police Dog Demonstration	Football Field
7:00-8:30PM	Solo Artist Craig Martini	Amphitheater
9:00-11:00 PM	The Michael Weber Show	Amphitheater
10:00 pm	Fireworks Display	Best View: Football Field
11:00 PM	CLOSE	
SUNDAY 14 JULY 2024 Hours 3:00pm-10:00 pm		
3:00 pm	OPEN (Rides, Food, Beer Garden)	
3:15-4:00 PM	Aerial Show	Front of Amphitheater
4:00-7:00 PM	Petting Zoo	By the Historical Society Tent
4:30-6:30 pm	Solo Artist Josee McGee	Amphitheater
7:00-9:00 PM	Rachel Brown & the Beatnik Playboys	Amphitheater
8:30PM	Silent Auction & Raffle Closes	Pick-a-Prize Tent
9:00-9:45 PM	Fire Show	Front of Amphitheater
9:00 pm	Silent Auction & Raffle Announcement	Pick-a-Prize Tent
10:00 PM	CLOSE	

2024 Seven Hills Farmers Market



BoysRBack Rolling Kitchen	July 11	Cleveland's Backstreet Blues Band
Manna Truck	July 18	Desmond & Molly
Barrio Tacos	July 25	Wayne Tomsic Combo
Cheesy Dave's	August 1	The Baker's Basement
Scott's Fire & Ice	August 8	The Barlow Boys
CLE Chicken	August 15	Riley Perry
Betty's Bomb A** Burgers	August 22	Gemstone
Cousin's Maine Lobster	August 29	Small Craft Advisory
Cheezylicious	September 5	Desmond & Molly
Manna Truck	September 12	Wayne Tomsic Combo
Cedar Grill	September 19	Tin Can Rooster
Barrio Tacos	September 26	JayBird Entertainment
Smokin' Rock n' Roll	October 3	Gemstone



SEVEN HILLS—Home Days are July 19th—21st! Make sure to see the other attached schedule for a full list of events, as well as the upcoming Farmers Market times for the rest of the season. [Click here](#) for the Seven Hills website page on this year's Home Days.

Thursdays 4-7PM, 7221 Broadview Road



Communication Updates

DISTRICT 15—With Summer here, it can be a challenging time for families and those with children and teens to provide constructive and safe activities during these months. Across Cuyahoga County, there are several programs that you and your family may be interested in:

- **Out-of-School Time Activities:** Programs and activities for older kids and teens.
- **Youth Advocacy and Leadership Council:** Focuses on youth leadership development.
- **Summer Food Programs:** Ensure children have access to nutritious meals throughout the summer.

DISTRICT 15—On behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services, below is a federal funding opportunity for local law enforcement called the Safer Outcomes Program.

The Safer Outcomes program supports training on de-escalation and crisis response for law enforcement officers, support personnel working with law enforcement agencies, and mental health professionals involved in crisis intervention teams either as law enforcement agency employees or under a legal agreement with a law enforcement agency.

The 2024 Safer Outcomes program will have three main components:

1. Integrating the curriculum for law enforcement academies and state-level training commissions.
2. Expanding regional de-escalation training centers.
3. Providing support for law enforcement agencies.

Applications are due by July 30, 2024, at 4:59 PM ET. Please click [here](#) for more information on the 2024 Safer Outcomes program. You can also find more information about other grants offered by the Office of Community-Orientated Policing Services (COPS) at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/grants>.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY—The county recently announced its participation in the Benefit Bridge Program—a pilot program through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to support those who see a decrease in government assistance due to obtaining new employment or a raise in wages.

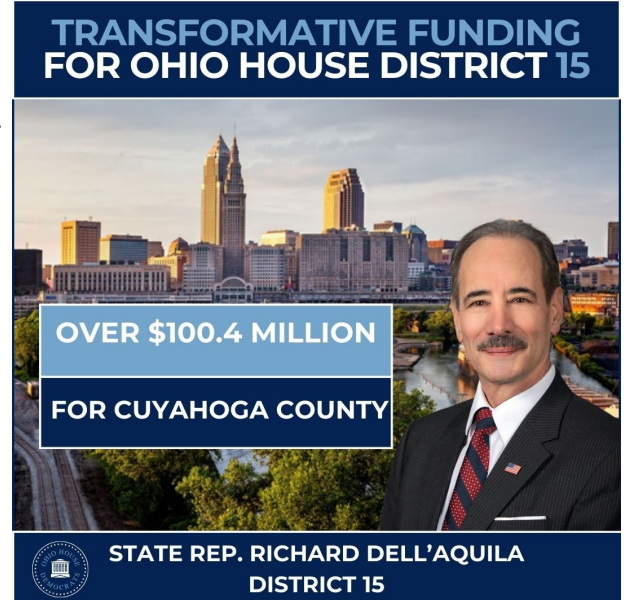
The Benefit Bridge program lasts 18 months and helps recipients maintain employment while transitioning over the benefit cliff. The program offers support services, financial wellness planning, as well as earned cash initiatives. Individuals must meet certain criteria to be selected for the program.

To apply or check your eligibility for the program, visit the Cuyahoga County HHS website by [clicking here](#).

Legislative Updates

Capital Budget: On June 26th, the Ohio House passed HB 2—the legislation that will provide Capital Budget and One Time Strategic Community Investment funding for community projects across the state. Of the millions in funding, below are several highlights with respect to District 15 and Cuyahoga County:

- Cuyahoga County Northcoast Connector (\$20,000,000)
- Bedrock Riverfront Development (\$8,000,000)
- Cleveland Port Bulk Terminal Modernization (\$5,000,000)
- Cleveland Zoo Primate Forest (\$2,000,000)
- Brooklyn Veteran’s Memorial Park (\$500,000)
- Seven Hills Fire Department (\$500,000)



**TRANSFORMATIVE FUNDING
FOR OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 15**

**OVER \$100.4 MILLION
FOR CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**STATE REP. RICHARD DELL'AQUILA
DISTRICT 15**

The graphic features a blue header with white text, a central image of a man in a suit (Richard Dell'Aquila) with a city skyline in the background, and a blue footer with white text and a small circular logo.

Additionally, House Bill 2 includes millions in budget funding for state entities to the following:

- \$600M to provide funding for K-12 school classroom facility projects.
- \$575M for the Public Works Commission to issue grants and loans to local governments for road and bridge projects, fresh water treatment and distribution systems, wastewater collection and treatment facilities, storm sewer systems, and solid waste disposal facilities.
- \$415.7M for state-supported higher education institutions to conduct construction of new facilities, major renovations of existing facilities, or basic renovations at public universities and their regional campuses and community colleges.



Session—In addition to **HB 2**, there were a litany of other bills that were heard during the marathon Session on June 26th; sending dozens of bills to the Senate and the Governor’s desk before Summer Recess. There were several bills of note—some great for Ohio and some not so great—that were passed:

- **HB 47** would require automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all Ohio public schools, charter schools, and athletic facilities of medium size or larger.
- **HB 56** would ban stunt driving and street takeovers—called “hooning” - and increases such penalties.
- **SB 104**—originally a bill to revise the College Credit Plus (CCP) Program—was amended to require a provision that all K-12 schools and colleges in Ohio that violates the Ohio Constitution “one issue” Rule by adding a restriction for transgender access to restrooms and locker rooms.

While we passed a substantial amount of beneficial legislation, some members continued to push for unnecessary and controversial bills late in the evening when most Ohioans are either asleep or otherwise unaware of their actions. This is how SB 104 was passed close to 11:00pm on the 26th, after nearly 12 hours near the end of our busy voting Session).



Legislative Updates (continued)

Aviation and Aerospace—You may have seen a recent Gazette article detailing Seven Hills and the continuing dialogue around intrusive drone use. While City Council will be deliberating on whether to take action before the state legislature formalizes guidance, I wanted to share what the House Aviation and Aerospace Committee has been doing to assist.



HB 149 – passed out of committee—would establish procedures and a framework for which law enforcement can utilize unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to conduct their own operations, while also prioritizing the privacy and security of communities and individuals that are unrelated to any criminal proceedings or investigations.

Further, HB 149 would allow UAV flight data to be public record and allows any person accused of a crime to obtain through the discovery process information acquired by UAVs.

While there still needs to be a House vote before the Senate deliberates, I hope such legislation is quickly signed into law so that our local communities have a structure within Ohio law to combat unconstitutional or otherwise intrusive drone usage.