

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Finance Committee

November 19, 2019

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY TO EXPLORE
OPTION OF A MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE WALZ BRANCH**

WHEREAS, On April 18, 2019, the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Public Library approved Group 1 of the Facilities Master Plan and directed the Library Administration to move forward with the renovation, expansion, consolidation or relocation of the first 13 of the Library's branches over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, The Walz Branch is one of the branches included in Group 1, and the Master Plan recommends constructing a new 14,000 square foot building as a part of a mixed-use development through a partnership with the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization ("Detroit Shoreway"); and

WHEREAS, The Library Administration has had preliminary meetings with Detroit Shoreway and several options have been discussed which would involve incorporating the Library into a senior housing development to be built by Detroit Shoreway on the site of the existing Walz Branch; and

WHEREAS, One alternative being considered is to build senior apartments above the new library branch. Another alternative under consideration is to place the senior housing adjacent to the library and to share certain spaces. Alternatives also include the Library owning the branch space or conveying the existing Walz property and leasing the branch space from Detroit Shoreway. Each alternative has different legal, cost, and community impact considerations that need to be explored and evaluated before a recommendation can be made to the Board; and

WHEREAS, The Library Administration requests authority to further explore these and other options, and in particular whether transferring ownership of the existing Walz Branch to Detroit Shoreway is a desired and viable option; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Public Library hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer and other members of the Library Administration, to explore the issues related to partnering with Detroit Shoreway for a mixed use development involving senior housing and a new branch library that may include transferring ownership of the existing Walz Branch to Detroit Shoreway, subject to further Board approval.