

Twitter Thread by Documenter_Keith



Documenter_Keith

[@DocumenterK](#)



Hi, my name is Keith and I'm post-tweeting Monday, January 31, 2022, Cleveland City Council's Finance, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee ("FDEIC") Meeting that started at or around 2:00PM.

The stream for this Committee was broadcasted by [@TV20Cleveland](#) and is accessible on the Council's Youtube channel,

<https://t.co/wsRXqN4IUl>

Read about FDEIC,

<https://t.co/IWqTMGhIUc>

Note: This was previously the Finance Committee. Council updated their rules & committees for 2022-2025.



Finance, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

About The Committee

The Committee on Finance, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion shall research, investigate, develop and implement public policy and advocate for the financial stability and operations of the City of Cleveland. The Committee shall oversee the Departments of Finance and Law and the Office of Equal Opportunity, and any processes and policies that impact the City's financial stability and operations.

The Finance, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee shall: review all ordinances, resolutions and other matters pertaining to finances, indebtedness, appropriations, the payment of monies not provided for by previous legislation, taxation, the standardization of salaries and wages, union agreements, civil service, the pensioning of employees and the sale, lease or purchase of real estate; review and approve all city financial expenditures and budgetary items along with all financial matters that pertain to the city; review changes to the Codified Ordinances; review legislation regarding city annexations, redistricting, and charter amendments; review all matters relating to courts; review ordinances relating to licenses and those imposing fines, penalties, forfeitures or imprisonment, printing and advertising; monitor compliance with community benefits, agreements, policies and procedures; review legislation and monitor the city's efforts on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Committees

Development,
Planning &
Sustainability

Finance, Diversity,
Equity & Inclusion

Health, Human
Services & the Arts

Mayor's Appointments

Municipal Services &
Properties

It was renamed and the broadened scope included to,

"monitor compliance with community benefits, agreements, policies and procedures; review legislation and monitor the city's efforts on diversity, equity and inclusion."

Committee Leadership and Members

Committee Leadership



Chair

[Blaine A. Griffin](#)



Vice Chair

[Kerry McCormack](#)

Committee Members



[Kevin L. Bishop](#)



[Kevin Conwell](#)



[Anthony T. Hairston](#)



[Brian Kazy](#)



[Michael D. Polensek](#)



[Jasmin Santana](#)



[Jenny Spencer](#)

Chair, Ward 6 Council Member [@Griff4CLE6](#) informs that a quorum of members is not necessary today as they will be hearing a presentation about Cleveland's Right to Counsel. He acknowledged [@kevinkelleyCLE](#) and [@TBrancatelli](#) for the role they had in this initiative.



Rule 14 of Rules of Council, 2022-2025 requires a quorum of the majority of members for the transaction of business.

Rule 15 requires a quorum in order to take action on legislation, aside from reading and discussion.

Rule 14. Committee Meetings. A majority of the members of a committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Each committee shall hold its regular meetings at the time and place fixed in the schedule, as prepared by the President of Council and Clerk of Council in conference with the chairs of the several committees.

Rule 14-1. Meeting. The committee meeting schedule shall be published by the Clerk. Should the chair of a committee find it necessary to hold a meeting at another time and place, the chair shall cause notice to be given and posted at least twenty-four (24) hours before the new time fixed for the meeting. All committee meetings shall be open, and a record of the attendance of members of the committee and the action taken there, shall be kept by the secretary of the committee in a record provided for that purpose. Such record shall be kept on file with the Clerk of Council and open to public inspection as other public records. No legislation shall be amended while in committee and it shall be the duty of the committee to recommend to Council the approval, disapproval or amendment of any legislation pending before the committee. A majority of the members of a committee shall be necessary for the recommendation of approval, disapproval or amendment of any legislation pending before a committee. A committee member shall not sign any legislation to recommend approval, disapproval or amendment if that committee member is absent from the committee during discussion of that legislation. All other motions shall require only a majority vote of the members of committee present.

Colleen Cotter, the Executive Director of Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, is present. (Center)



August "Auggie" Napoli Jr., CEO of United Way of Cleveland is to her right. "Proud p

Niel Steinkamp, Managing Director at Stout, is to her left. He performed the annual evaluation of Cleveland's Right to Counsel.



Neil Steinkamp

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Neil Steinkamp is a well-recognized expert and consultant on a broad range of strategic, organizational, and financial issues to government, business, court and community leaders and their advisors. He has nearly 20 years of experience covering many industries and matter types. Clients seek Neil for his comprehensive understanding of: transformative change strategies; complex structured and unstructured data analysis and assessment; multi-stakeholder collaboration and coordination; the development of pathways to compliance and iterative change strategies; financial and fiscal impact analyses; and other complex topics. He has worked extensively to help resolve sophisticated problems involving large-scale industry and social issues.

Neil is a well-known author and speaker on important business-related financial topics and industry-specific matters, including groundbreaking analyses of industry trends and fiscal opportunities related to social and government initiatives.

Neil has provided testimony in a variety of venues, including bench and jury trials and domestic and international arbitration. He has also assisted parties in numerous complex resolutions involving settlement negotiations, mediation, and facilitation.

He also leads Stout's Pro Bono practice. In this capacity, Neil has served a wide range of individuals and organizations through the application of financial, economic, strategic, and data analysis concepts that benefit low-income individuals and underserved communities.

Off screen several individuals introduced themselves, but you can't really hear them.

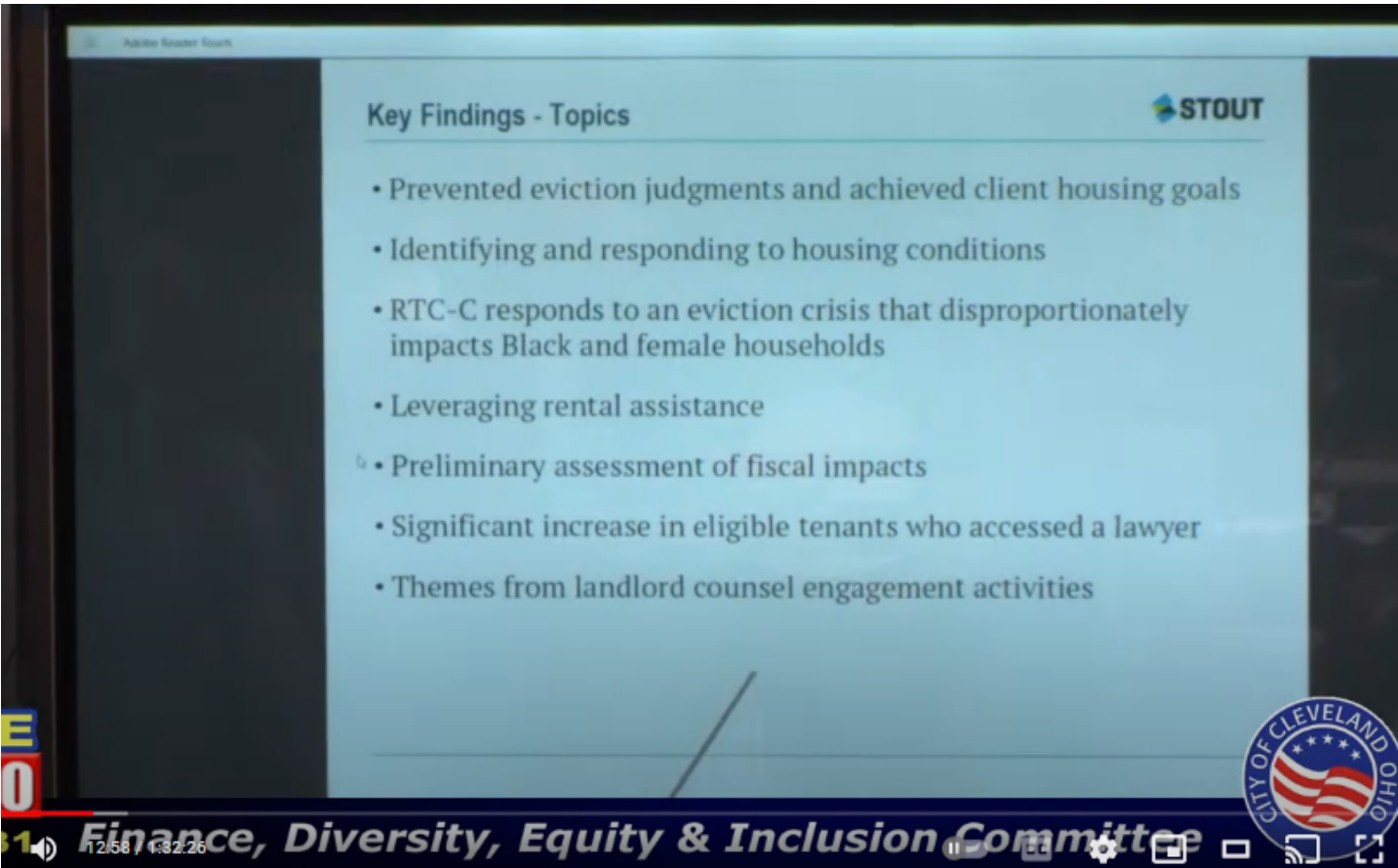
Cotter begins by briefly summarizing the law as it pertains to Right To Counsel ("RTC") which is only constitutionally protected in criminal cases. She acknowledges that Cleveland City Council has sought to offer counsel in eviction cases and

will offer a report on that.

Auggie reviews some history. In Sept 2020, Stout collaborated with United Way and CLE Legal Aid to assess program success and evaluate Cleveland's model of right to counsel. A report was due January 31st, Council received it this morning.

Steinkamp is going to share the highlights of the evaluation of Cleveland's eviction right to counsel. Their report was organized around six key themes.

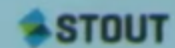
Note: Review below image.



Tracked 25 distinct client goals and assessed the percentage of reaching various outcomes.

Note: review table in image for outcome information and percentages.

Key Findings



Prevented eviction judgments and achieved client housing goals

- Discussing client goals during the interview process
 - Client goals can change during the case
- Cleveland Legal Aid tracks 25 distinct client goals
- Key client goals achieved:

Outcome Achieved	Frequency Outcome Achieved	# of RTC-C Clients with Goal	% of RTC-C Clients with Goal
Prevented eviction judgment or involuntary move	93%	650	94%
Secured rental assistance	83%	342	50%
Secured time to move (30 days or more)	92%	299	45%
Mitigated damages	94%	288	42%
Secured monetary relief	97%	94	14%

- Cleveland Legal Aid achieved 92% - 99% for nearly all client goal categories in 2021



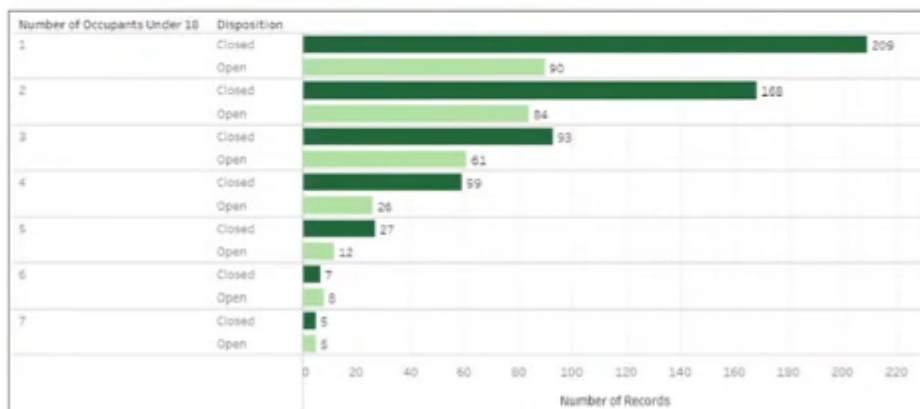
Right To Counsel in Cleveland is specifically targeting households with children.

Key Findings

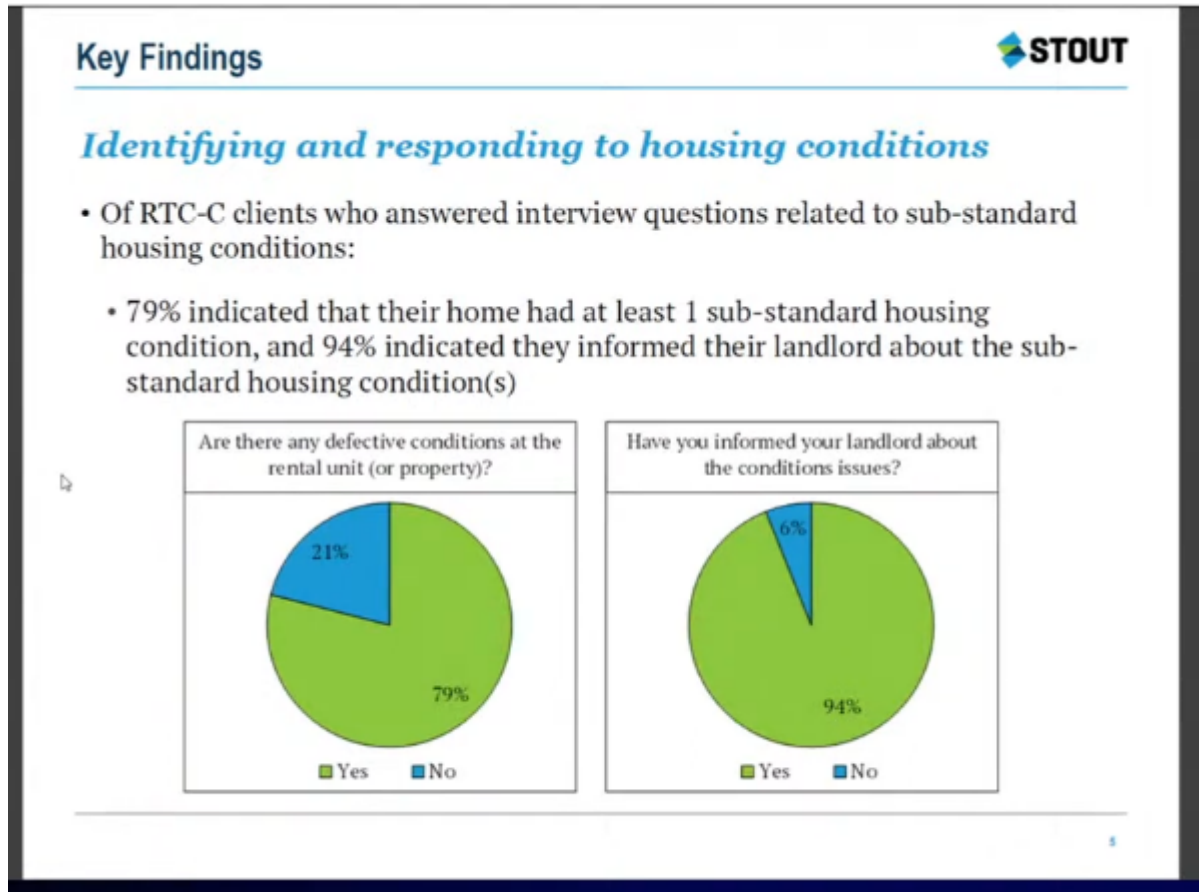


Prevented eviction judgments and achieved client housing goals

- Nearly 1,300 children were served through RTC-C in 2021
- Children per client household ranged from 1 to 7, and the average number of children per client household was 2
- Approximately 64% of RTC-C client households had more than 1 child



Steinkamp "With respect to housing conditions, we were able to learn about the intersection between housing conditions and eviction issues. ... There is a very deep intersection between the two, close to 80% of cases."



Conditions included plumbing issues, ceiling damage, infestation, water damage.

Many client seek to leave the damage house.

Identifying and responding to housing conditions

- More than half of sub-standard housing conditions identified by RTC-C clients were:
 - Plumbing issues – 15%
 - Wall/ceiling/floor damage – 15%
 - Water damage/water leaks – 13%
 - Infestation or pests – 12%
- 2022 – working with Cleveland Legal Aid to understand better when clients stay in their homes, how frequently sub-standard housing conditions are remediated through representation
- 92% of clients who had a goal of securing more time to move were successful in achieving that goal

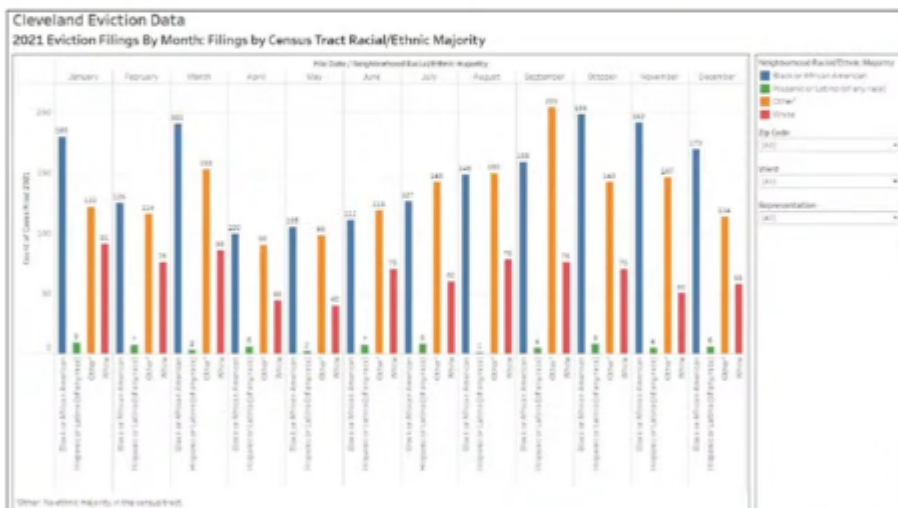
Next several slides depict how evictions impact black and female households.

"42% of all 2021 Cleveland eviction filings were in majority Black/African American census tracts compared to only 19% in majority white census tracts."

Key Findings

RTC-C responds to an eviction crisis that disproportionately impacts Black and female households

- Cleveland eviction filings are concentrated in non-white majority census tracts



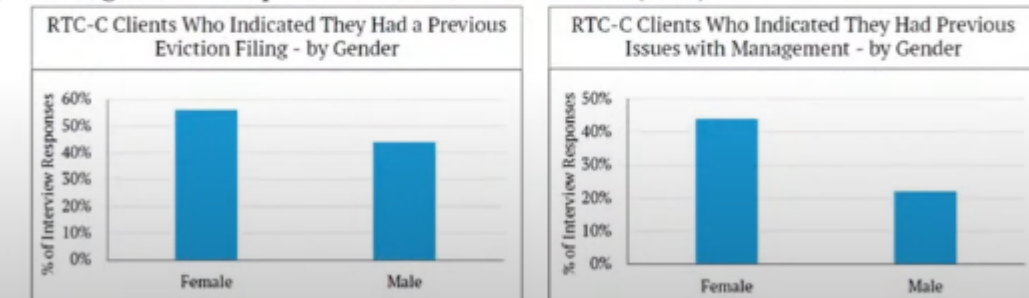
"There is a frequency of substandard housing conditions is higher than it is for white clients."

Key Findings



RTC-C responds to an eviction crisis that disproportionately impacts Black and female households

- More Black or multi-racial RTC-C clients living in market rate housing experience sub-standard housing conditions (82%) compared to white RTC-C clients living in market rate housing (73%)
- More female RTC-C clients (56%) indicated they have a previous eviction filed against them compared to male RTC-C clients (44%)
- More female RTC-C clients (44%) indicated they had previous issues with management compared to male RTC-C clients (22%)



Note: in the earlier Council Caucus meeting, there was much discussion about the role outsized landlords have in Cleveland's market and recently [@ClevelandScene](#) reported on the conditions of the real estate market in Cleveland.

The Right To Counsel program has helped amplify and leverage rental assistance. Legal Aid helps clients navigate that process.

Leveraging rental assistance

- More than \$28 million available for distribution, and \$17 million distributed in 2021
- CHN Housing Partners received and reviewed approximately 20,000 applications for rental assistance from Cleveland residents
- Like RTC-C clients, rental assistance applicants were disproportionately Black, female, and had incomes of 100% or less of the FPL
- 73% of applicants with household incomes of 100% or less of the FPL also had at least 1 child
- The number of rental assistance applicants that would likely also qualify for RTC-C compared to the actual number of RTC-C clients suggests that rental assistance has likely assisted in avoiding a significant number of eviction filings

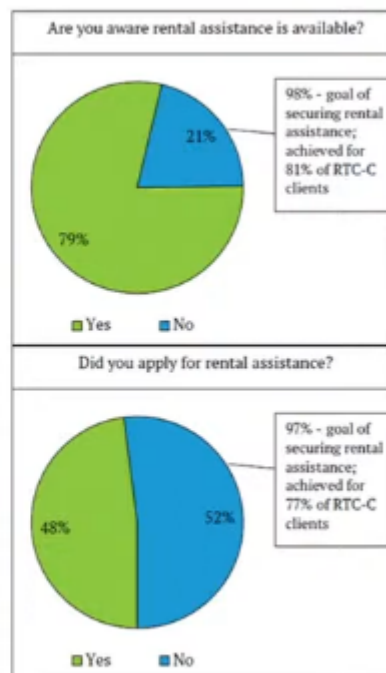
10

79% of clients were aware of rental assistance during client intake

21% of clients were not aware of rental assistance during client intake

Leveraging rental assistance

- 79% of RTC-C clients indicated they were aware rental assistance was available
- Of the 21% who were not aware, approximately 98% had the goal of securing rental assistance (in addition to other goals), and Cleveland Legal Aid achieved this goal for 81% of them
- Of the 52% of RTC-C clients who had not already applied for rental assistance, approximately 97% had the goal of securing rental assistance (in addition to other goals), and Cleveland Legal Aid achieved this goal for 77% of them



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Key Findings



Preliminary assessment of fiscal impacts

- Stout's estimates are preliminary and likely understated
- Preliminary fiscal impacts Stout was able to quantify based on currently available data:
 - Cost savings related to housing social safety net responses - \$1.1 million to \$1.2 million
 - Sustained education funding for children in Cleveland Metropolitan School District - \$1.1 million to \$1.2 million
 - Economic value preserved by retaining residency in Cleveland - \$1.4 million to \$1.6 million
 - Cost savings related to Medicaid spending on health care - \$108,000 to \$116,000
 - Cost savings related to out-of-home foster care placements - \$580,000 to \$620,000
- Total estimated preliminary fiscal impact - \$4.3 million to \$4.7 million

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Key Findings



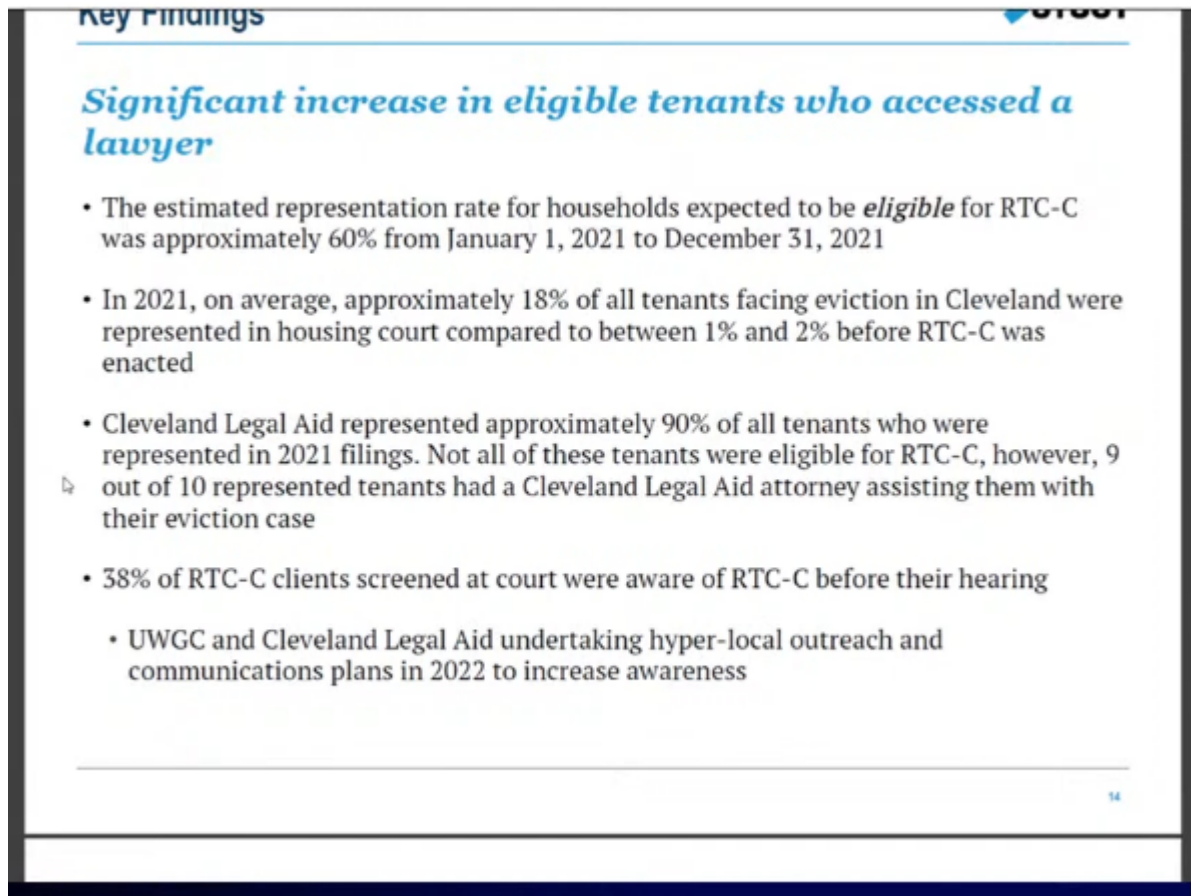
Preliminary assessment of fiscal impacts

- Costs that are not currently quantifiable based on available data:
 - The education costs, juvenile justice costs, and child welfare costs associated with children experiencing homelessness
 - The effects of stabilized employment and income and the economic and tax benefits to the state associated with consumer spending
 - The negative impact of eviction on tenants' credit score, ability to re-rent, and the potential loss of a subsidized housing voucher
 - The cost of providing public benefits when jobs are lost due to eviction or the eviction process
 - The cost of mental health care
 - Certain additional costs associated with homelessness, such as additional law enforcement and incarceration costs
 - The cost of family, community, and neighborhood instability
 - Preservation of financial and personal assets
 - A reduction, over time, of the number of eviction cases filed resulting in improved use of Cleveland Municipal Court resources.

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Steinkamp, "RTC Program is creating a systemic transformation of access to justice in Cleveland."

Note: Review percentages below



Key Findings

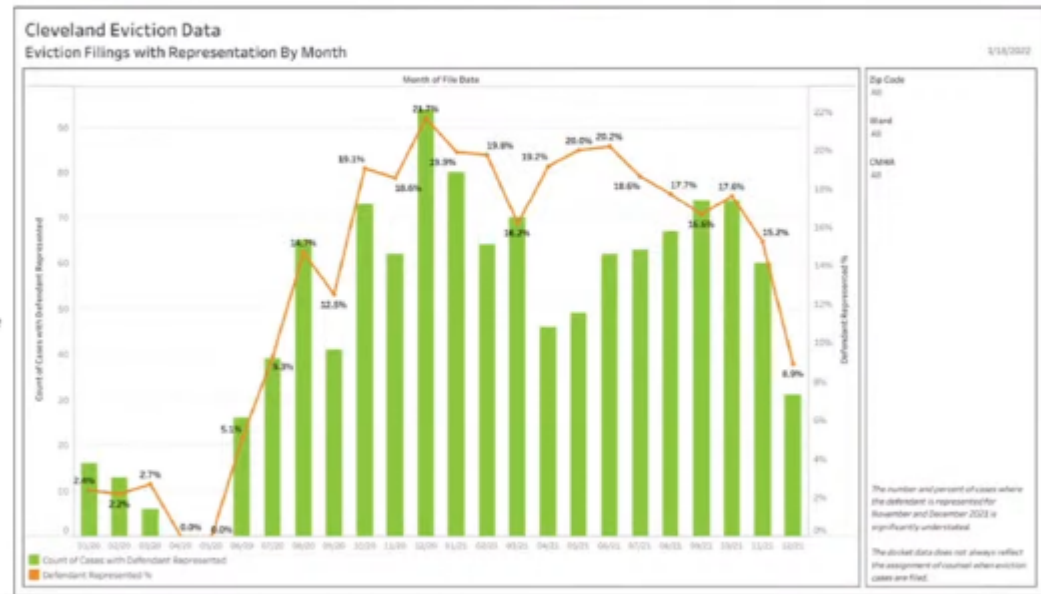
Significant increase in eligible tenants who accessed a lawyer

- The estimated representation rate for households expected to be *eligible* for RTC-C was approximately 60% from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021
- In 2021, on average, approximately 18% of all tenants facing eviction in Cleveland were represented in housing court compared to between 1% and 2% before RTC-C was enacted
- Cleveland Legal Aid represented approximately 90% of all tenants who were represented in 2021 filings. Not all of these tenants were eligible for RTC-C, however, 9 out of 10 represented tenants had a Cleveland Legal Aid attorney assisting them with their eviction case
- 38% of RTC-C clients screened at court were aware of RTC-C before their hearing
 - UWGC and Cleveland Legal Aid undertaking hyper-local outreach and communications plans in 2022 to increase awareness

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Visual Representation of RTC Program

Significant increase in eligible tenants who accessed a lawyer



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Steinkamp / Stout reached out to landlords who generally supported client's right to counsel.

Note: this is interesting given the previous comments made in the Caucus meeting.

Themes from Stout's landlord counsel engagement

- Stout's landlord engagement
 - Supportive of intent of RTC-C and believe tenants should be represented
 - Underscored importance of eviction diversion and effective mediation
 - Communicated the importance of sustained rental assistance to maximize impact of RTC-C and minimize potential hard to small landlords
 - Indicated importance of training, process improvements, and leveraging social workers

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Recommendations for 2022

1. Iteratively refining data collection, reviewing and rephrasing interview questions, developing mechanisms to ensure completion of interviews and prompt case closure
2. Launch client follow-up surveys via text message to develop deeper insights into medium- and long-term impacts of RTC-C
3. Develop complementary communication and outreach strategy centered on local trusted messengers and a methodology for evaluating its impact
4. Collaborate with UWGC, Cleveland Legal Aid, and community stakeholders to collect information during door-to-door canvassing, particularly for residents who do not plan to seek legal representation
5. Support the development of a Tenant Advisory Council and a Landlord Advisory Council

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"Wow! Very very good news! Far exceeded our expectations. Did you layover data from the schools? Did we stop at much transiency that happens in the schools?"

LIVE TV 20
JAN 31

Finance, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

CITY OF CLEVELAND

Steinkamp replies, "Not specifically, I do think that is an opportunity this year. ... Research around the country shows that evictions is connected to chronic absenteeism at schools but Cleveland has yet to do a quantitative analysis but I would like to for 2022."

W6 Griffin, "How much does this cost per case? How much investment do we put in per case?"

Steinkamp, "We can definitely get those numbers."



W9, Kevin Conwell chimes in and states "Look at the good will it costs, sometimes you can't measure that. ... The prevention part, that's important, a lot of people can't measure prevention. I'd like to see the numbers on that."



W8, Michael Polensek asks, "Where the majority of the evictions filed for late-rent payments, no rent payments? What's the number one reason for an eviction?"



Steinkamp, "The way evictions are filed by landlords. Most are for non-payments. We have tried to go deeper to assess what are the other circumstances that are arising. Things that arise like conditions, verbal agreements, and mental health."

W8, Polensek, "Do the majority of evictions filed, do the occupants/tenant have a [written] rental agreement?"

Steinkamp, "Most of them have a signed rental agreement."



W8, Polensek, "I'm look at your census tract data and I can see in my own community where evictions versus other sections - the highest concentration of 2 family homes, properties owned by LLCs, or high-rises."

W8, Polensek, "What has your been findings and interaction with CHMA?"

Steinkamp, "CHMA didn't file any eviction last year. ... They worked to not bring any. It dramatically changes the landscape in Cleveland when you remove the largest evictor."



W8, Polensek, "None of us want to see anyone evicted because they have fallen on hard times. On the other side of the equation are landlords that are trying to get out [bad tenants]."

He shares a story about a pastor and his wife dealing with bad tenants.

Ward 12, Rebecca Maurer asks, "If we had an infinite amount of money, what would be the next roadblock to expand Right To Counsel to residents in Cleveland?"

Cotter, "This program cost \$2,700,000, Council gives \$300,000/yearly, we were also recipients of CBDG and CNDG CARES fund through the city - about \$1,000,000. There is \$1,700,000 gap filled by philanthropic measures. That will not be sustainable."

Cotter, "This only covers tenants at 100% of the Federal poverty guidelines with a child in their home. So elderly people without a child that are 100% below the poverty do not qualify. People above the poverty guidelines do not qualify."



Cotter, "So, about 30% of Cleveland tenants qualifies. 60% would qualify if it went up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines."

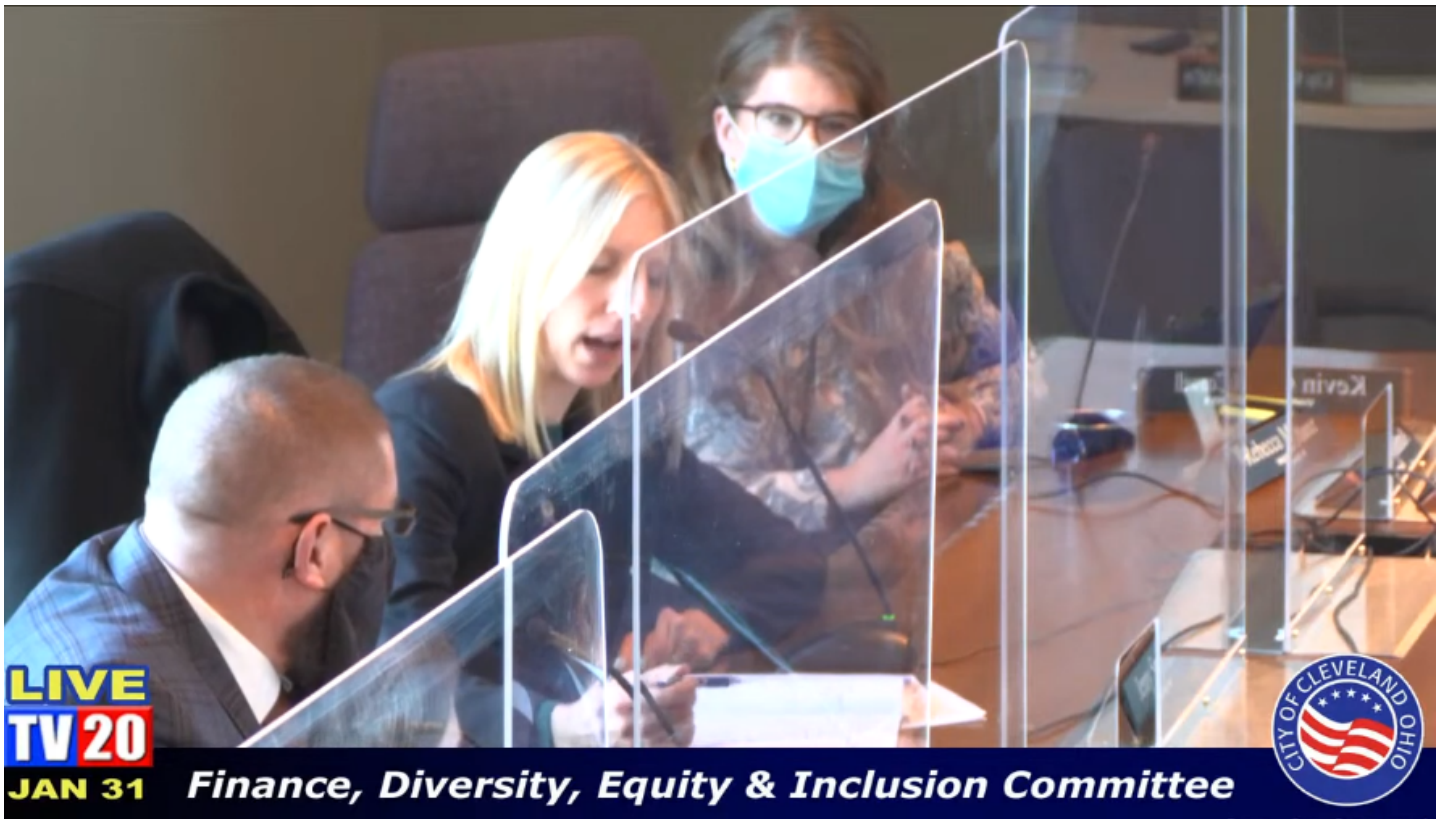
Auggie, "IF you think about it, we saved \$4,700,000 saved which is a very good investment made for \$300,000 [plus the CBDG funds of \$700,000]."

Ward 15, [@jennyspencercle](#) "What is the overall budget as it now stands?"

Cotter, "2.7 million in total."

Spencer, "300k allocated by Council. 700k allocated by CBDG and CARES Act?"

Cotter, "That is correct, so far in Cleveland there is 300k being funded."



Spencer, "So the 1.7 million has been fully funded until?"

Cotter, "Through 2021, so we need funds for 2022."



W15 Spencer, "We want to expand but we need to make sure we are shored up for the current amount?"

Cotter, "That is correct. ... Cleveland is the 4th city in the Country to offer RTC. Legal Aid has applied for ERA Federal funds and CBDG funds from the City but has yet to hear."

W12, Maurer enquire if Legal Aid had to change how they helped others.

Cotter informs they've added staff and expanded.

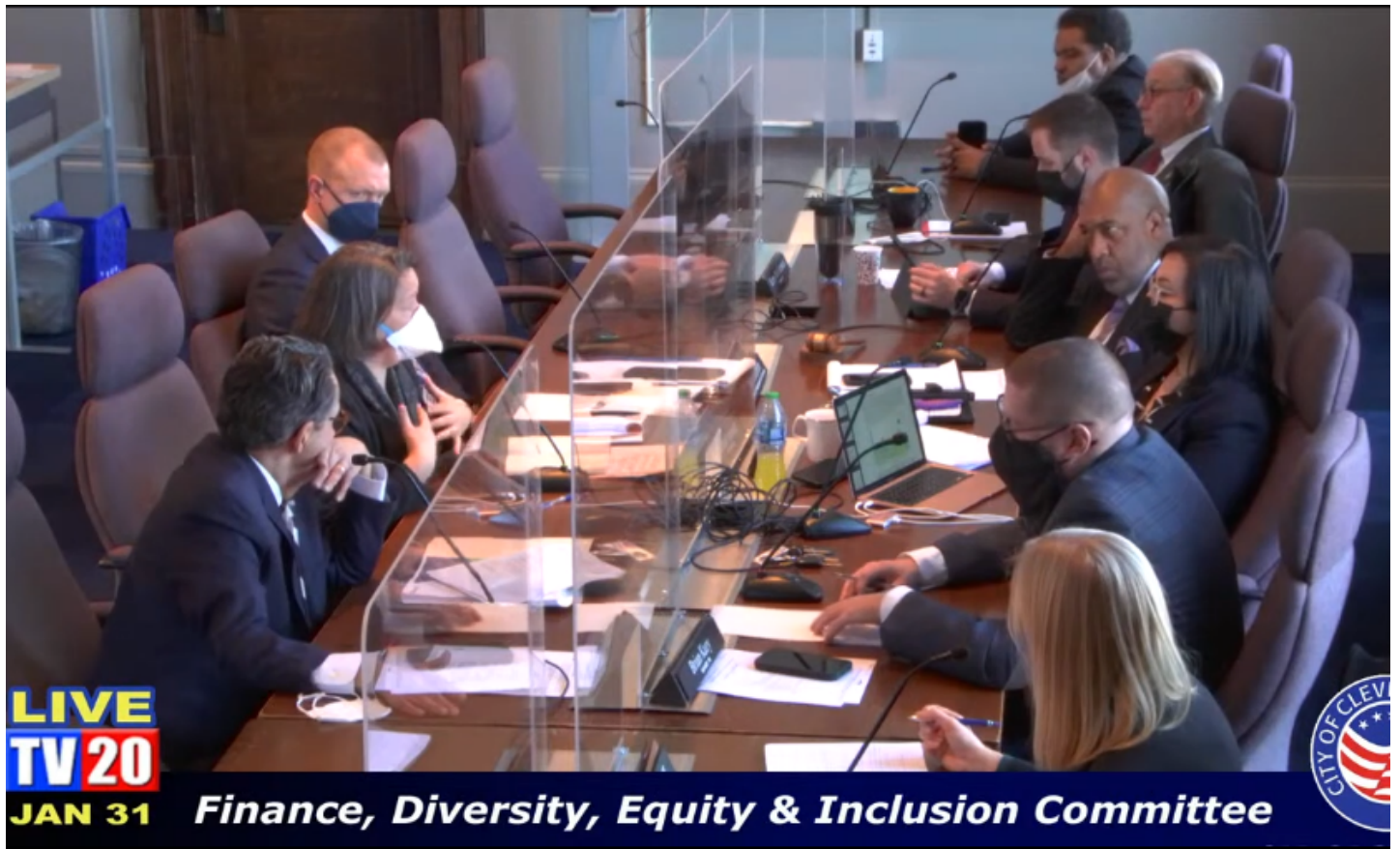
Auggie suggest the number to watch is the savings number that the City secures by helping people. It will only increase if it continues to help more people.

W15 Spencer, "You requested funds from what Department?"

Cotter, "Development and I can't recall the other one."

Spencer enquires if cash flow is a concern.

Auggie responds yes, it is a concern, but the public-private partnership is designed to buffer that.



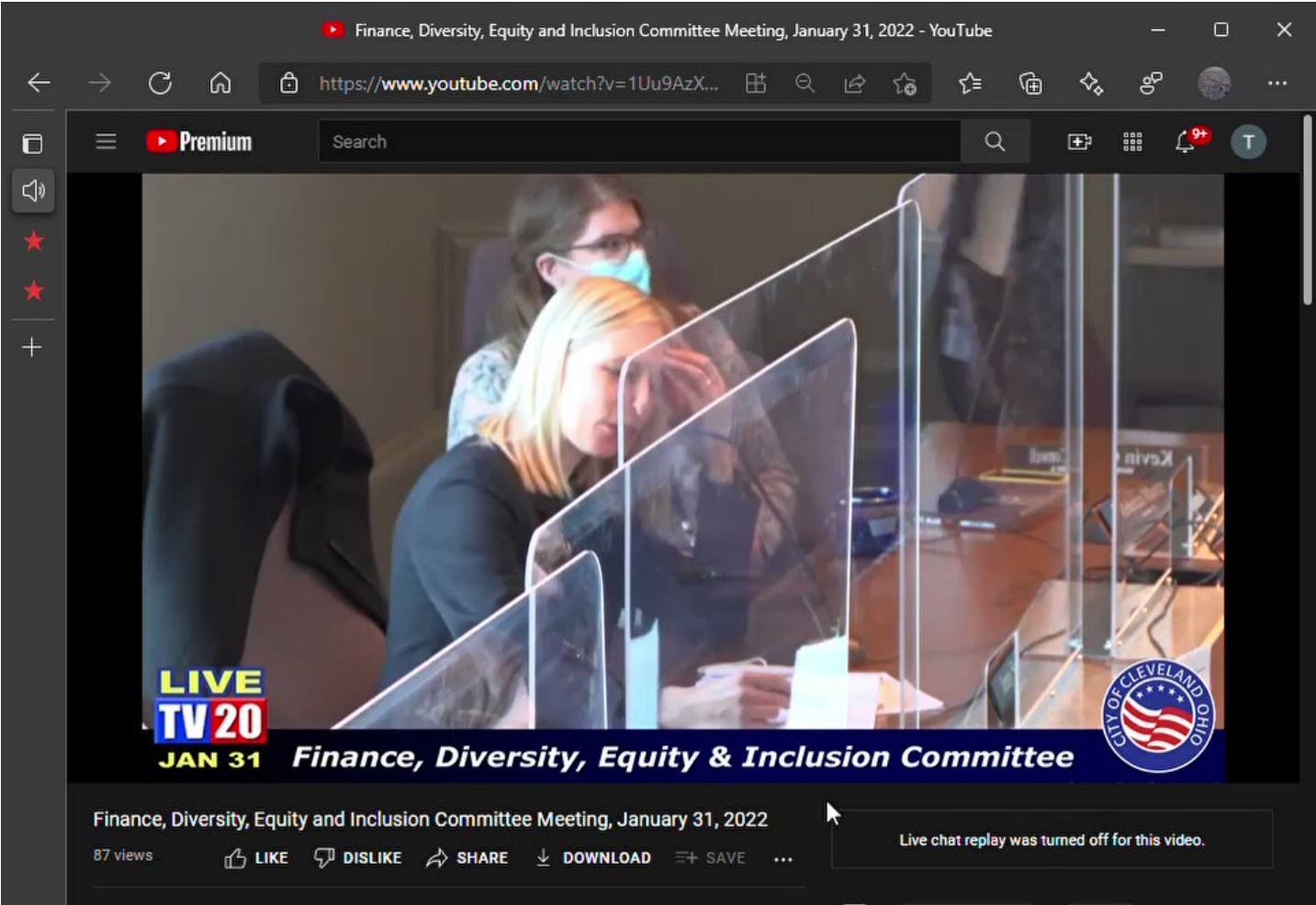
Cotter, "Concerning 2022, Stout has provided real good mechanisms for predicting the resources we need going forward. ... I would expect the 2022 budget to be greater as more evictions are filed."

Auggie gets to the point. They want to expand the amount that City Council spends annually on the RTC program.

"We want to stay focused on what the City can do."



Spencer asks, "In what # or % of cases were rental assistance dollars used?"



Steinkamp offers a detailed reply.

Finance, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting, January 31, 2022 - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Uu9AzX...

Premium Search

LIVE TV 20 JAN 31

Finance, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

City of Cleveland Ohio

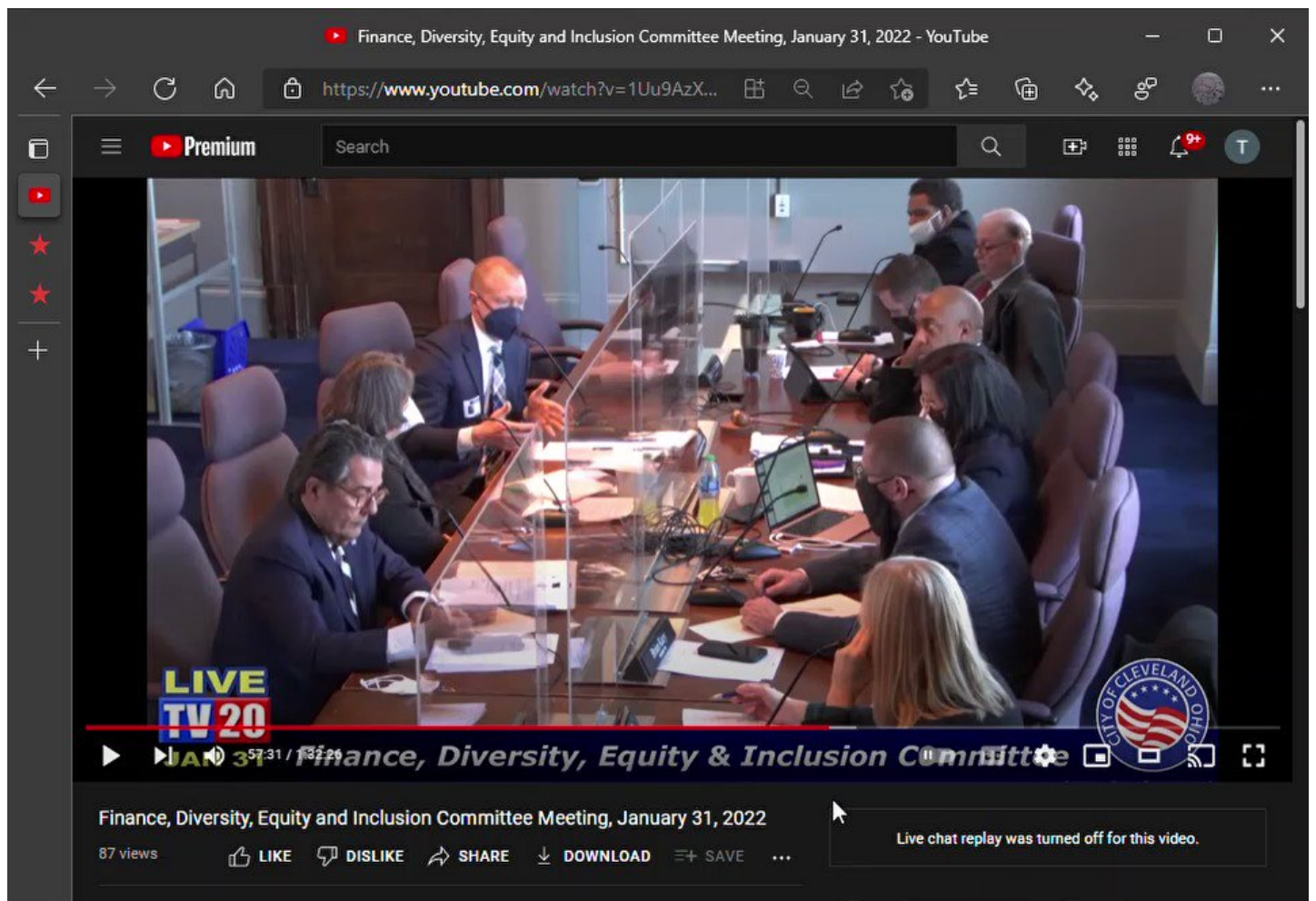
Finance, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting, January 31, 2022

87 views LIKE DISLIKE SHARE DOWNLOAD SAVE ...

Live chat replay was turned off for this video.

A screenshot of a YouTube video player. The video shows a woman with blonde hair speaking at a podium with a microphone. Another person wearing a face mask is visible behind her. The video has a 'LIVE TV 20' logo and a 'JAN 31' date stamp. The title of the video is 'Finance, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting, January 31, 2022'. The video has 87 views and options to like, dislike, share, download, and save. A message states 'Live chat replay was turned off for this video.' The City of Cleveland Ohio logo is in the bottom right corner of the video frame.

Steinkamp summarizes, "Rental assistance is very important in these cases. Legal Aid is very important in these cases. ... These are complicated non-payment cases. Lawyers are essential for solving it for everybody involved."



W16, Kazy "How many cases did you work on during 2021 during the moratorium? Explain that process."

Cotter, "Landlords can still file and did. We would get a call and help them raise a defense. If successful, the court would stay the eviction."

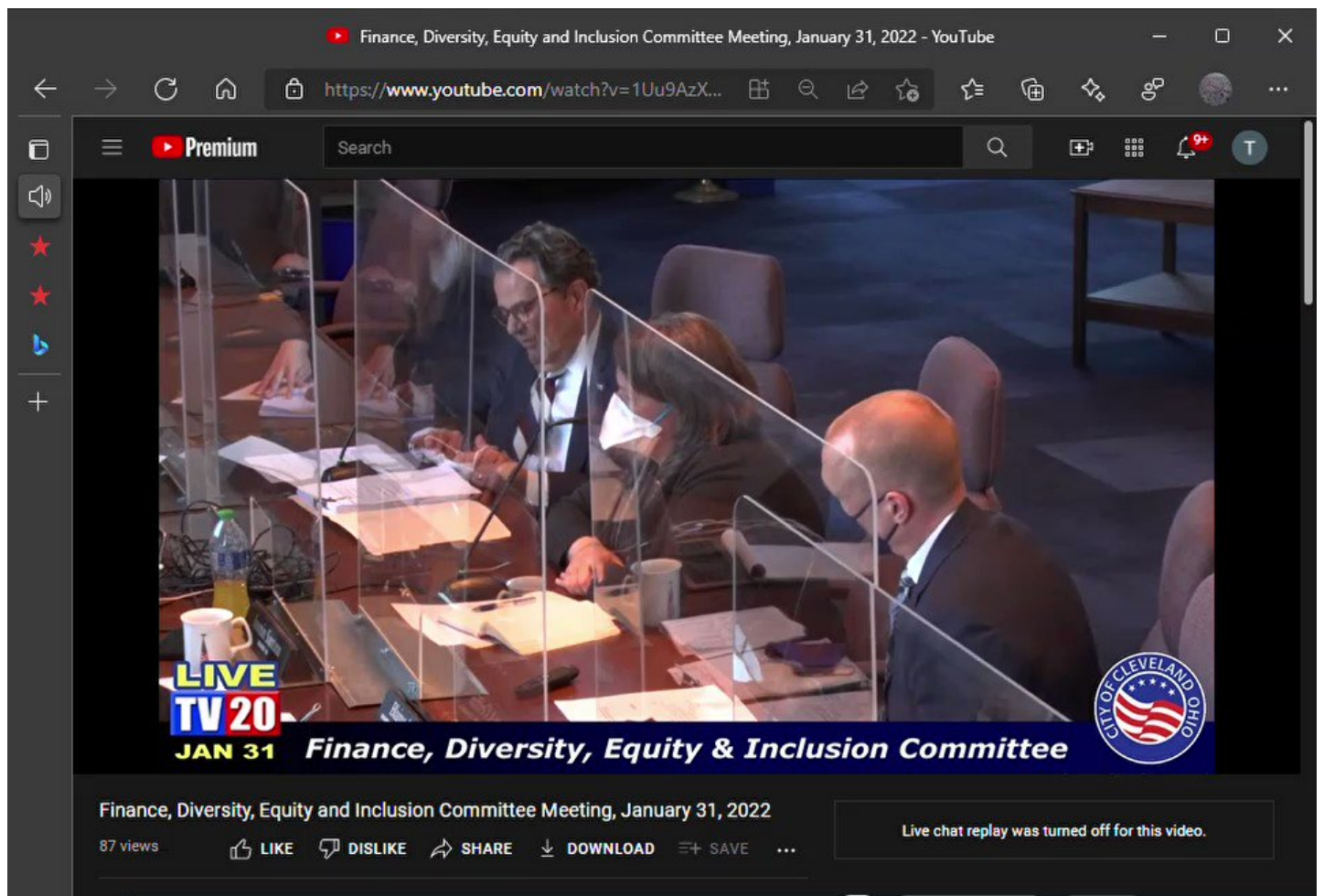
Kazy asks for clarification on the RTC program acceptance requirements versus Legal Aid not turning anyone away.

Cotter, "RTC as passed by this body has 100% and a child. So, for that category we represent them, every single one. if someone is outside of that, we try to represent them. There is no RTC."

Kazy asks who came up with that requirement.

Cotter states it was not Legal Aid or United Way.

<https://t.co/y2LonOIziL>



Kazy asks about if the funding Cleveland provided covered the cases they did work on.

Auggie reminds him it was only 300k, but 2.7 million was spent so it worked with non-profit helps [and other Federal grants via the City].



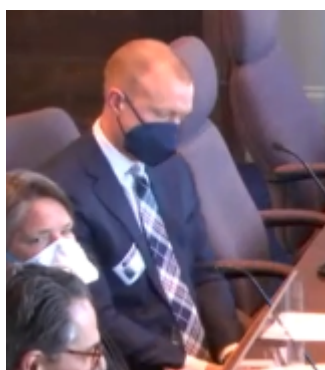
Kazy enquires about CHN rental relief funds and the role it has played in helping Cleveland residents in their home and plans when it dries up.

Cotter responds, "Rental Assistance has been very helpful. It is a key component to a good RTC program."



Kazy thanks them and advocates that we need to look at expanding this program to all residents.

Steinkamp, "Rental assistance helps prevent eviction filing."



Auggie, "Rental assistance is hugely important in stabilizing housing."

Kazy asks if United Way offers budget management to people.

Auggie, "We would love to develop a program to address that."

Ward 14, Jasmin Santana gives a shoutout to the off-screen support staff of United Way and Cleveland Legal Aid.

She asks what happens when a client finds out about rental assistance.



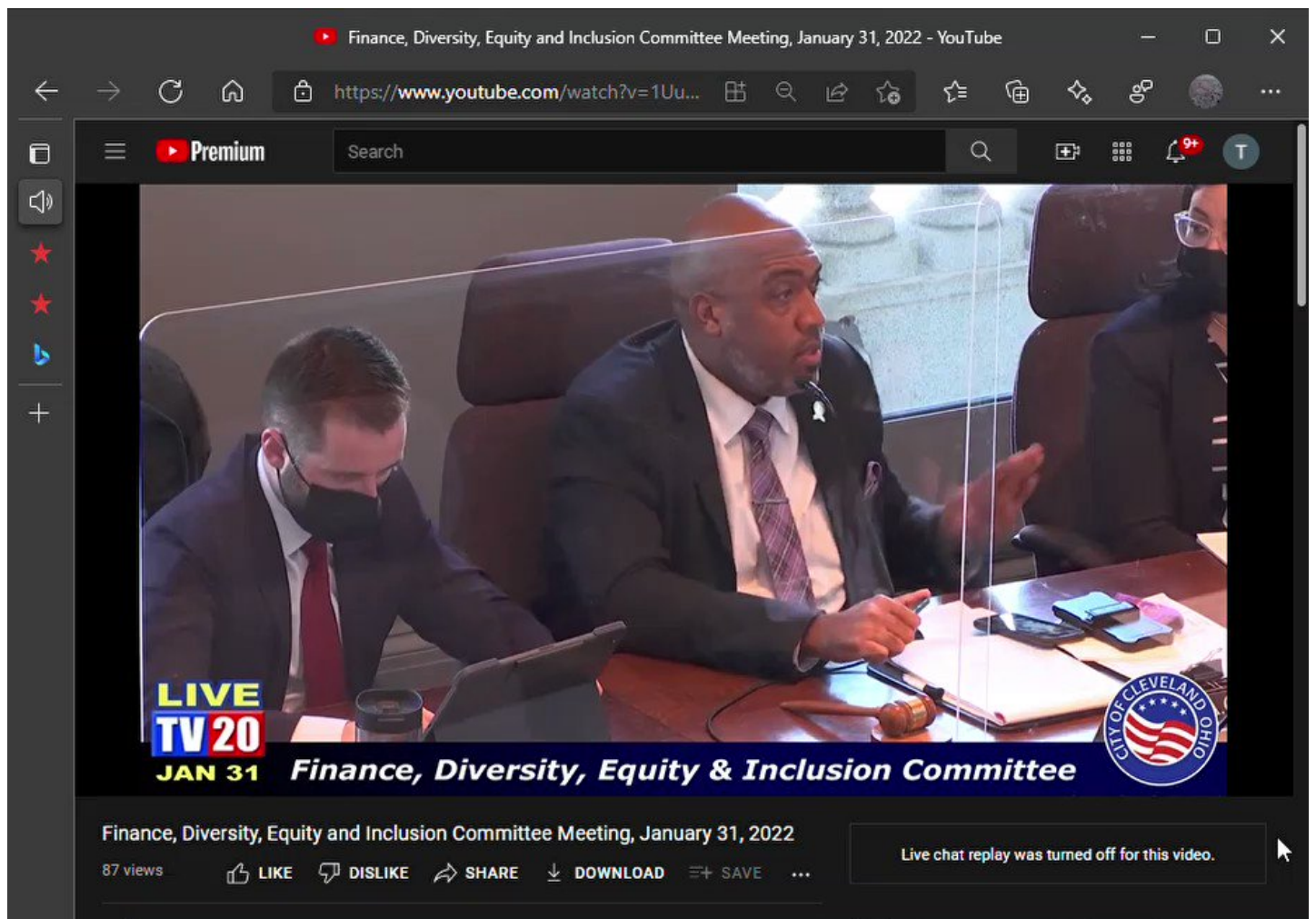
Cotter, "We have a close relationship with CHN. Our experience has been as long as we keep all parties informed, everyone is willing to delay so the landlords can be made whole."

Santana, "Are property owners turning away rental assistance?"

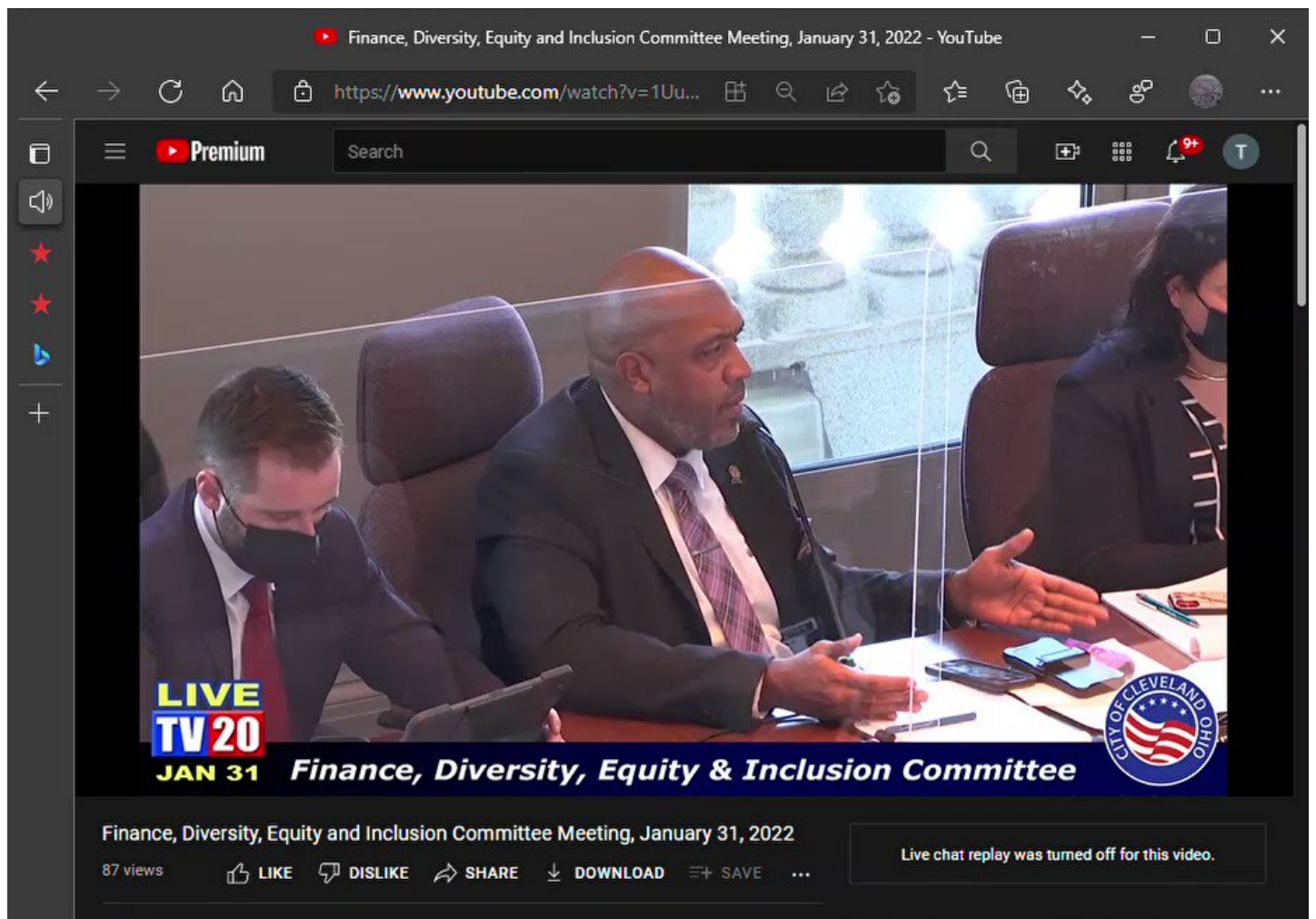
Off-screen Hazel is now on-screen, "There are some that does."

Griffin asks about the funding requests, is it to grow or fill the gap to 2.7 million from 300k.?

Auggie "it's important we solidify the funding for 2022 and 2023...then we can scale it."



Cotter responds, "It is both, the budget may be greater in the future if we have to expand. ... If Counsel is to expand, Legal Aid is ready. ... We need the financial commitment from the City."



Griffin, "What percentage of the city are renters?"

Hazel, "I don't recall but it is in the report."

Monday, January 31, 2022, Cleveland City Council's Finance, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting adjourned at or around 3:35PM.

Remember to check out recorded notes and live-tweets for other governance meetings. They are posted on the Cleveland Documenter's website, access past meetings here:

<https://t.co/dmdYjEmTAP>

To become involved and for more meeting coverage, check out <https://t.co/rgwG6GSYfV>. Have questions? Think we got something wrong? Send any enquiries on the meeting or these tweets to [@cledocumenters](https://twitter.com/cledocumenters)

Or email us at documenters@neighborhoodgrants.org