



CITY OF CLEVELAND

## Office of the Council

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**Brian Kazy** COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 16

**COMMITTEES:** Utilities - Chair • Finance, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion • Municipal Services & Properties  
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**TO:** Karl Racine, Esq., Monitor, Cleveland Police Monitoring Team

**FROM:** Brian Kazy, Cleveland City Councilman, Ward 16

**DATE:** March 18, 2025

**RE:** Open Letter To Step Down as Cleveland Monitor

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Racine, you were admittedly involved in an incident at or about 2:30am at the Cleveland JACK Casino. This incident included having an encounter with an off-duty member of the Cleveland Division of Police. During this encounter, your alleged behavior resulted in a call to the Cleveland Police Department's 3<sup>rd</sup> District. Prior to the arrival of the on-duty police, you had vacated the premises and was no longer on scene when they arrived. The following day, you met with Cleveland Police Chief Dorothy Todd to inform her of the alleged inappropriate, unprofessional behavior of the Cleveland Police officer however, you refused to file a complaint against the officer. Throughout your encounter with the police officer, you allegedly 'threw your weight around' as being a Federal Monitor and a representative of the Department of Justice.

Because of this incident, the City of Cleveland's Office of Professional Standard has opened an investigation into your interaction with the police officer and your honesty after the fact. Under the settlement agreement between the federal government and Cleveland, overseen by Judge Oliver, when a monitor has "failed to satisfactorily perform his duties" he is charged with, the "replacement of the monitor" can be called for. (This is in paragraph 359 of the settlement agreement). Mr. Racine, you should spare the City of Cleveland the disruption of remaining in office while the investigation into your conduct is ongoing. The City of Cleveland, Cleveland City Council and the residents of the City of Cleveland expect the utmost professionalism when it comes to the Federal Monitors who are here, in part to monitor the behaviors of the Cleveland Police Department. Due to this incident and the current investigation, I am formally requesting that you and your law firm, Hogan Lovells step aside as the leaders of the Federal Monitoring Team. You are a federal monitor and therefore, an arm of the court. Federal Monitors cannot bring the court or the City into disrepute. This is the case of 'somebody needing to monitor 'the monitors' and I believe in this case that until the investigation is complete, the integrity, credibility and appropriateness of the process that you and your law firm are tasked to complete.

If you refuse to step aside or resign by Friday, March 21st, I will be sending a formal request to Judge Oliver to dismiss or suspend you immediately. The fact that we are even at this point, there is an open investigation, and this incident is a news story is an embarrassment to the Department of Justice, Judge Oliver, yourself, Hogan Lovells, the Cleveland Police Department and all of the monitoring team. It would behoove you to do the right thing, display leadership and remove yourself and your law firm, Hogan Lovells from leadership of the City of Cleveland consent decree.

**Brian Kazy**  
Council Member – Ward 16  
Cleveland City Council

**City Hall** 601 Lakeside Avenue N. E., Room 220, Cleveland, OH 44114 • **Phone** (216) 664-2942 • **Fax** (216) 664-3837

**Residence** (216) 251-2331

**Email** [bkazy@clevelandcitycouncil.org](mailto:bkazy@clevelandcitycouncil.org)