

## MICHAEL DYLAN BRENNAN

Office of the Mayor:  
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**CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, University Heights, Ohio**  
*Mayor and Safety Director*

**2018-present**

Chief executive and administrative officer in an historic first suburb of Cuyahoga County. Established city's first economic development department. Managed successful application for CDBG funding for pedestrian improvements in Cedar-Green district. Created city-wide Community Reinvestment Area, leading to new home construction and new additions to existing homes. Reformed fire department, including installation of a new chief responsible for bringing over \$2m in grant funding to the city, together with acquisition of a new ladder truck and ambulance, and other reforms leading to improved ISO classification for department. Oversaw the implementation of the city's Office of Community Policing, and established a citizens committee after George Floyd's murder to work with our police department leading to an update and reform of our use-of-force and de-escalation policies. Championed legislation modernizing the city's approach in housing, including: updating demolition permit process; empowering the building commissioner to require foreclosing banks to bring houses up to code; depoliticizing the Board of Zoning Appeals by removing elected officials from the hearing and appeal processes; empowering the city prosecutor to appear in housing court on behalf of the city; encouraging city prosecutor to obtain administrative search warrants to inspect vacant properties and seek demolition funding; allowing permits for backyard chicken coops with appropriate regulations; requiring landlords to pay delinquent real estate taxes or enter into payment plans with the county as a condition of renting property in the city; reconvening the city's Fair Housing Commission to remedy unlawful discrimination in housing. Sponsored and signed into law nondiscrimination ordinance as to LGBTQIA+ individuals as to housing, employment, public accommodations. Sponsored and signed into law legislation strengthening prohibition of "source of income" discrimination in housing. Founded a Community Improvement Corporation to work with a developer for the city's first new housing development since the 1970's, South Taylor Place Condominiums. Built the city's first two miles of bike lanes, then collaborated with Cleveland Heights and South Euclid for the "Bike Boulevards" way-finding program and the Heights Active Transportation Program, setting forth plan for future pedestrian and bicycle projects for the three cities. Won grant for and constructed Electric Vehicle Charging station at City Hall. Reorganized city Finance Department and implemented best practices, such as establishing city's first formal reserve policy, resulting in clean audits since 2019 top date. Initiated solid waste study to improve sustainable practices (completed), municipal facilities study for new green facilities (completed), and zoning code update with a view towards sustainable development and equity, together with complete revisioning of Warrensville Center Road (in progress). Coordinated all stakeholders of University Square shopping center for redevelopment as Bell Tower Center. Transformed city monthly newsletter into weekly e-news with quarterly print magazine; raised city's profile on social media. Rebranded the City in 2019, with new municipal signage fabricated and installed in 2023. Obtained NOACA, County, and ARPA funding for the redo of Cedar Road, complete with pedestrian improvements and enhanced crosswalks in 2022-23. Developed and implemented modernized residential recycling program, increasing collections. Worked with ALDI for successful application (to be built 2026), and John Carroll University on Gateway North mixed use project (groundbreaking Spring 2025). Worked with congregations Zichron Chaim and Aleksander Shul on their successful applications and construction of synagogues. Progress continues.

Serves on the following boards in connection with serving as mayor: Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), Board Member, Assistant Treasurer, Finance and Audit Committee (Chairperson 2020-21 and Committee Member) Planning and Programming Committee (Committee Member); Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, Board Member 2018-23; Heights Hillcrest Communications Center Board of Trustees, Chair; Chagrin Valley Dispatch Board of Trustees; Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) Suburban Council of Governments, Secretary; Northeast Ohio Mayors & City Managers Association, Executive Committee 2021-22; Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium, Executive Committee 2024-25; Cleveland Water Department Suburban Council of Governments; First CALL Program, Advisory Board 2024-25. All work on regional bodies is done acknowledging that public safety is paramount, with a priority on sustainable development and restorative practices, an emphasis on multi-modal transit to ensure access to all people regardless of mode, age, and ability, and a recognition of climate change and the need for climate action planning for the region.

Board panelist and presenter at conferences sponsored by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Power a Clean Future Ohio, and Climate Mayors.

Invitee of EXCEL 2024, a national leadership institute of local government chief executives at University of Maryland School of Public Policy

Attendee of and participant at conferences, including: Ohio Municipal League; Ohio Mayors League; Cuyahoga County Emergency Management Summit; Empowering Local Leadership presented by Greater Cleveland Partnership in DC.

**ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**THE LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL DYLAN BRENNAN, LLC, Cleveland, Ohio** **2009-2018**  
*Owner and Managing Attorney*

Litigation attorney in a general practice that emphasized employment discrimination claims, consumer rights, and civil rights claims. Counselor to businesses and non-profit organizations for contract issues and employment issues, including non-competition and confidentiality agreements. Seminar speaker on trial skills, motion practice, tenant rights, evidence.

**HERMANN, CAHN & SCHNEIDER, LLP, Cleveland, Ohio** **2003-2009**  
*Senior Associate; Associate*

Litigation attorney with responsibilities that extended through all stages of representation, including trial and appellate proceedings. Trial experience both as lead counsel and as second chair, with favorable verdicts or settlements reached. Practice areas included: insurance defense (motor vehicle, premises liability, products liability), insurance coverage issues and insurance bad faith defense; plaintiffs' personal injury and medical malpractice litigation, including wrongful death and catastrophic injury cases; legal malpractice litigation; business law and litigation, including contract disputes, creditor representation in bankruptcy and collections; employment law, including non-competition agreements and wrongful termination claims.

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, Cleveland, Ohio** **1999-2003**  
***Judicial Staff Attorney for The Honorable Kathleen Ann Sutula***

Advised and assisted the judge on all civil cases on her docket. Conducted legal research, prepared recommendations on motions, and drafted opinions and orders, as well as assisted in conducting case management conferences and pre-trials.

**WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., L.P.A., Cleveland, Ohio** **1997-1999**  
***Associate***

Litigated commercial law and consumer cases in state and federal courts. Courtroom experience included first chair jury trial experience, bench trials and arbitrations.

**DAN MORELL & ASSOCIATES CO., L.P.A., Independence, Ohio** **1995-1997**  
***Associate; Law Clerk***

Effectively handled small business and corporate matters, commercial and consumer collections, probate matters and residential real estate transactions.

**COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE AND ACTIVITIES:**

**CLEVELAND CHAMBER CHOIR** **2018-present**  
***Board Member and Secretary.***

Serving the musical arts community by supporting a local chorale ensemble with a varied repertoire of music, including music by contemporary and local composers.

**FUTUREHEIGHTS** **2016-2017**  
***Board Member.***

Served on the board of a community advocacy group promoting Cleveland Heights and University Heights as ideal places to live, work, and play, while serving on both the Civic Engagement committee and the Music Hop event committee for annual local independent music event in the Heights.

**CITIZENS FOR SAYBROOK PARK / CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS** **2013-2014**  
***Volunteer.***

Participated in the citizen grassroots effort to support the acquisition of property for purposes of building a new community park in University Heights (now known as Walter Stinson Community Park), submitted ideas, and reviewed design concepts for the new park.

**JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT** **2007**  
***Delegate.***

Selected by Judge Kathleen Ann Sutula to attend the conference and participate in committees to improve the justice system in Cuyahoga County.

**LAKE ERIE INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS CORP. (LEIMUN)** **2000-2022**  
***Chairman of the Board; Founding Trustee; Treasurer; Advisor/Consultant.***

Founded and managed a nonprofit corporation that organizes and administers Model UN conferences.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington, DC** **Spring 1996**  
***Environment and Natural Resources Division, General Litigation Section Law Intern.***

Conducted legal research and wrote memoranda and briefs on environmental issues in cases pending throughout the United States and its territories. Contributed to the construction of legal arguments on matters of first impression.

**CONGRESSMAN ERIC D. FINGERHUT, District Office**  
***Congressional Intern.***

**1994**

Fielded constituent telephone calls. Conducted research on issues pending before Congress. Handled constituent case files regarding social security and passports. Drafted correspondence.

**EDUCATION:**

**Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Juris Doctor, 1996**

Class Standing: Top 25%

G.P.A. 3.20/4.00

*Cleveland State Law Review*, Business Editor

Student Bar Association, Vice President

Honor Code Committee, Student Representative

**Bowling Green State University, Bachelor of Arts, 1993, Political Science, Philosophy (minor)**

G.P.A. 3.50/4.00

*The BG News*, Editorial Columnist

Undergraduate Student Government, Senator

Omicron Delta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha honoraries

**BAR ADMISSION:**

State of Ohio, 1996; United States District Court, Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio; United States Bankruptcy Court, Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio; admitted *pro hac vice* to additional state and federal jurisdictions on select cases.

**PERSONAL:**

Resident of University Heights 1998-2000, 2005-present.

Married, Gina L. Ventre.

Musician, sports fan, foodie, reader/writer, recreational bicyclist, terrible golfer.