

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of The)
Dayton Power and Light Company for) Case No. 16-0395-EL-SSO
Approval of its Electric Security Plan.)

In the Matter of Application of The)
Dayton Power and Light Company for) Case No. 16-0396-EL-ATA
Approval of Revised Tariffs.)

In the Matter of the Application of The)
Dayton Power and Light Company for) Case No. 16-0397-EL-AAM
Approval of Certain Accounting Authority)
Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code §4905.13.)

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
CHERISH CRONMILLER
ON BEHALF OF OHIO PARTNERS FOR AFFORDABLE ENERGY
AND
EDGEMONT NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION**

1 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, TITLE, AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

2 A. My name is Cherish Cronmiller. My business address is 719 S. Main St.,
3 Dayton, Ohio 45402. I am on the executive team of Community Action
4 Partnership, and I appear in this case as a witness on behalf of Ohio Partners for
5 Affordable Energy and the Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition.

6
7 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR
8 YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING.

9 A. I serve as the Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of Community Action
10 Partnership (CAP) of the Greater Dayton Area. I have been at CAP since 2009
11 and since that time, I have served as the Compliance Officer and the Director of
12 Resource Development. In March of this year, I was promoted to Vice-President
13 and Chief Operating Officer. I have been responsible for preparing and
14 researching our annual needs assessments, and surveying the community and
15 customers for input regarding community needs. I have worked with the low-
16 income population through my professional career as an advocate.

17
18 I have a Bachelor of Science in Organization Communication and a law degree. I
19 am a licensed attorney in the State of Ohio.

20
21 My professional career has focused on the development, operation and funding
22 of low income energy assistance programs and renewable energy development
23 programs.

1 I attach my resume to this testimony.

2
3 Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE OHIO PUBLIC UTILITIES
4 COMMISSION ("PUCO" or "COMMISSION")?

5 No.

6
7 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY.

8 A. The purpose of my testimony is to urge the continuation of a fuel fund that was
9 provided by The Dayton Power and Light Company (DP&L) beginning in 2009.
10 In addition, funding should increase to \$750,000 per year from the level initially
11 set at \$400,000 per year because of the increase in poverty and declines in the
12 average household income of poor families in the years since the fund was
13 established. In Montgomery County, nearly one in five people, 19.6 percent,
14 were living below the poverty line in 2014, according to the data. That's about the
15 same as the previous year, but a significant increase from 14.6 percent in 2007,
16 the year the documented recession began. Median household incomes for
17 Montgomery County have fallen about \$7,500 since 2007. One cause of the high
18 poverty rate is that higher-paying, full-time jobs are being replaced with jobs that
19 don't pay a living wage, or jobs that are part-time or temporary.

20
21 High utility costs were cited as the major housing concern for over 46% of our
22 CAP customers, and of those, 53% cited utility assistance as their greatest
23 overall need. These statistics correlate to figures released by the Bureau of

1 Labor Statistics last year: In the \$15,000 to \$19,999 yearly income range, 11.1%
2 of income is spent on utilities, versus a household income of over \$150,000
3 which only spends 4.8% on income on utilities.
4

5 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE FUNDING AND OPERATION OF THE EXISTING
6 FUEL FUND.

7 A. The initial fuel fund, which distributed \$400,000 per year to assist low income
8 families maintain essential energy service, was originally authorized and funded
9 in Case No. 08-1094-EL-SSO, et al. The fund was authorized for an additional
10 year at the same funding level in Case No. 11-3002-EL-MER. The fuel fund has
11 not been extended since then.
12

13 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE OPERATION OF THE FUEL FUND.

14 A. DP&L made an annual contribution to Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy
15 (OPAE), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in December prior to the year the fuel
16 fund was made available to families, generally on March 1. Through an
17 agreement between OPAE and the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA)
18 and an agreement between DP&L and ODSA, funds were made available to
19 eligible customers of DP&L who unable to pay their electric utility bills.
20 Specifically, customers in need of assistance contacted one of the community-
21 based nonprofit agencies which receive grants from ODSA to determine eligibility
22 and provide benefits under the Home Energy Assistance Program and the
23 Percentage of Income Payment Plan program. The customers visit the agency,

1 their household income is verified, and the amount of payment necessary to
2 prevent disconnection of the current bill is authorized. The payment information
3 was entered into the Ohio Community Energy Assistance Network (OCEAN)
4 system, a web-based benefit system utilized to provide assistance for a broad
5 array of social service programs. The client information and payment amount
6 was transferred to ODSA nightly. The information was reviewed and forwarded
7 directly to the DP&L billing system, which credited the payment to the customer's
8 account. ODSA generated a monthly report on the amount of benefits provided.
9 OPAE then remitted a payment to ODSA in the amount of the benefits. OPAE
10 also paid ODSA an administrative fee of \$8 per client, again on a monthly basis.
11 OPAE received no funding for its involvement.

12
13 In 2014, the last year of the DP&L fuel fund, \$186,220.59 of the fuel funds were
14 used by our agency to assist 1,502 customers in our four county area. CAP was
15 one of the possible twenty-six agencies that had access to the \$400,000 in fuel
16 funds that were spent on a first-come, first-served basis.

17
18 The benefit had implications far beyond maintaining essential energy services.
19 Beneficiaries were regularly confronted with the need to choose between
20 retaining energy services, eating, or purchasing necessary medicines. It should
21 also be noted that the majority of beneficiaries of bill payment assistance
22 programs are elderly or disabled. A sizeable percentage of the families receiving
23 assistance have children under the age of 5 in the home. And, 90 percent of

1 those obtaining assistance from these programs that can work are working.
2 Unfortunately, the wages they receive are inadequate to cover basic needs.

3
4 Q. CAN YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY THERE IS A CONTINUING NEED TO
5 PROVIDE DP&L CUSTOMERS WITH ASSISTANCE THROUGH A FUEL
6 FUND?

7 A. Poverty remains a significant problem throughout Ohio and in the DP&L service
8 territory. On a statewide basis, poverty increased by 57.7% between 1999 and
9 2011. Simply put, poverty remains a significant problem for families, the elderly
10 and disabled. In most of the counties in the DP&L service territory, more than 30
11 percent of all households would be eligible for benefits from the fuel fund.

12
13 Q. WHY IS IT APPROPRIATE TO PROVIDE BILL PAYMENT ASSISTANCE AS A
14 PART OF A STANDARD SERVICE OFFER?

15 A. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Commission) has often issued Orders
16 approving the establishment of fuel funds to assist low income families. Ohio
17 utilities make fuel funds available to their customers, supplementing other federal
18 and state resources. In the case of DP&L, this fuel fund was included and
19 approved by the Commission as a part of its first Standard Service Offer. This is
20 the logical case to continue this important assistance program. In addition, the
21 authorization and funding for the fuel fund is consistent with the policies
22 established by the General Assembly in Am. Sub. S.B. No. 221. Specifically,
23 Sec. 4928.02(L) makes it the policy of the State to “[p]rotect at risk populations,

1 including, but not limited to, when considering the implementation of any new
2 advanced energy or renewable energy resource". The policies articulated by the
3 General Assembly in the legislation which established the standard service offer
4 should be followed; the continuation of the DP&L fuel fund is consistent with
5 those policies and in the public interest.

6
7 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

8 A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the Testimony of Cherish Cronmiller has been served electronically upon the persons listed below this 21st day of November 2016.

/s/Colleen L. Mooney, Attorney
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy

SERVICE LIST

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RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

**COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF
THE GREATER DAYTON AREA**

Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, Dayton, Ohio, 3/2016 to present

- Supervises major component directors and key support staff members
- Prepares and reviews all proposals and is responsible for developing all supporting budgets
- Is responsible for the planning, implementation and monitoring of all agency programs
- Prepares and presents reports to the Board of Trustees on program matters and proposals or designates a staff member to do so and represents Montgomery County to the Board of Trustees
- Maintains a measurable mission statement driven approach to program acquisition and development

Director of Resource Development & Compliance Officer, Dayton, Ohio, 10/2009 to 3/2016

- Responsible for the conception of short and long term plans and the generation of new programs to advance agency's mission; develops and analyzes budgets for current and proposed projects
- Researches and formalizes economic development initiatives, develops proposals for competitive or initiative program grants based on analyzing and responding to community needs
- Negotiates with both private and public sector resources for funding initiatives; coordinates and performs grant writing activities; tracks financial status of projects
- Planning and structuring of procurement process; issuing RFPs; RFQs; developing policy and procedures for purchases, and construction of checklist for proposal evaluation
- Ensures adherence to safety standards by OSHA and Home Weatherization Program
- Conducts compliance job-site inspections by interviewing workers

DAYTON METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

Contracts Compliance Officer, Dayton, Ohio 10/2007 to 10/2009

- Drafts Requests for Proposals, Requests for Qualifications, Invitations for Bids; ensures all competitive bidding processes are compliant with HUD regulations
- Drafts professional services contracts, monitors contract compliance, draft Cure Notices, Revocations
- Monitors subcontractor activity for HUD compliance
- Maintains and develops procurement section of Agency website
- Facilitates proposal evaluations and contract negotiations
- Tracks DBE/MBE/WBE/SBE participation and keeps a current contact list for minority clearinghouses, vendors and business development centers
- Conducts compliance job-site inspections by interviewing workers to verify salaries in order to ensure compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and federally funded construction projects

STUDENT HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Law Clerk, Legal Intern, Program Coordinator, Columbus, Ohio, 5/2004 to 10/2007

- As a clerk and a Certified Legal Intern, handled intake of student clients, documenting problem obtaining appropriate information from clients, deciding what advice to dispense to the client then verifying with the supervising attorney that the advice about to be dispensed is proper under the law; disseminating said advice and describing future steps to clients
- As a clerk and Certified Legal Intern, retaining student clients and drafting letters to Landlord, creditors and other agencies on their behalf; negotiating with aforementioned entities; drafted complaints, counter-claims, defenses and other court documents for litigation
- As the Program Coordinator, oversaw general office functions: Monitored budgets, approved payments, and reconciled financial statements.
- As the Program Coordinator served as a liaison to community organizations and university departments on behalf of the office; administer and organize outreach and advertising efforts; plan and implement educational programs. Supervised long-term office projects.
- As the Program Coordinator, screened and interviewed new job applicants; trained and supervised student employees; served as payroll

contact for office; responsible for the orientation of all new office staff.

BROMLEY HALL

Director of Residence Life, Athens, Ohio, 6/1998 to 7/2000

- Participated as an integral member of the management team
- Hired, managed and supervised eight resident assistants while responsible for the entire residence life program
- Developed and executed training programs and orientation seminars for the staff and residents

EDUCATION, Honors & AFFILIATIONS

THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO, *Licensed Attorney in Good and Active Standing since May 2009*

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, MORITZ COLLEGE OF LAW, Columbus, Ohio, ***Juris Doctor***, May 2006

Certificate in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution and Public Service Fellow

*HARRY S. AND GEORGINA LETT MEMORIAL AWARD
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, MULTICULTURAL CENTER
GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL STUDENT AWARD*

THE OHIO UNIVERSITY, Athens, Ohio, **B.S.C.** in Interpersonal Communication received, June 2000

Major in Organizational Communication, Minor in Business Management, Certificate in Women's Studies

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BACKGROUND

Software: Advanced level: Amicus, Windows Office Suite, Google Docs;
navigating and manipulating database and spreadsheets; extensive
capabilities in designing and layout using Publisher and PowerPoint

Basic level: Dream Weaver, ACT, Project Planner, MS Front Page, MS
Project, SPSS

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Jewish Community Leadership Institute, 12/2014
- Board of Directors for Temple Israel, 6/2015
- *Greening the Synagogue, Greening the World Committee* at Temple Israel, 10/2014
- Dayton Bar Association *Leadership Development Program*, 6/2014
- Member of the Dayton Bar Association and The Ohio State Bar Association; 5/2009 to present
- Teach Introduction to Public Speaking at Sinclair Community College as part-time, adjunct faculty, 6/07-6/09
- Foster volunteer for *Pets Without Parents*, a non-profit animal shelter, caring for motherless kittens until age-ready for adoption and donating needed supplies, 2003-2007
- Mediator for Franklin County Municipal Court Mediation Program, 2/2006-10/2007

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Case No(s). 16-0395-EL-SSO, 16-0396-EL-ATA, 16-0397-EL-AAM

Summary: Testimony of Cherish Cronmiller on behalf of Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy and Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition electronically filed by Colleen L Mooney on behalf of Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy and Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition