

June 15, 2026

To: Members of the Budget, Finance & Governance Committee

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager 202602335

Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – Amending CMC 324-22 Vendor Good Faith Efforts to Meet Goals – B Version**

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

MODIFYING the provisions of Chapter 324, “Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program,” of the Cincinnati Municipal Code by **AMENDING** Section 324-22, “Vendor Good Faith Efforts to Meet Goals,” to improve efficiency and create additional flexibility to review documented good faith efforts to meet applicable contract participation goals.

Currently, City code only allows the Director of Economic Inclusion to evaluate a bidder's Good Faith Efforts when no otherwise eligible bidder has met the MBE/WBE participation goals. The proposed amendment to CMC 324-22 would allow the Director to consider documented Good Faith Efforts even when another bidder has met the goals, provided the Director determines the bidder made a legitimate and well-documented effort to achieve participation.

This change aligns with Recommendation #3 of the 2023 Disparity Study, which states that firms demonstrating sufficient Good Faith Efforts should be evaluated the same as firms that meet the participation goals, while firms that neither meet the goals nor demonstrate Good Faith Efforts should be deemed nonresponsive.

Cc: Cathy Bernardino Bailey, Interim Assistance City Manager
Laura Castillo, Interim Chief Procurement Officer
Lydgia Sartor, Interim Director, Department of Economic Inclusion