



Meeka D. Owens
Councilmember

Seth Walsh
Councilmember

11/16/2023

MOTION

Owens and Walsh 2023 Joint Closeout Budget Priorities Motion

WE MOVE that the remaining funding from the FY24 carryover dollars following the passage of Ordinance #202302300 be allocated as indicated in the chart below:

Item	Amount
Place Based Support	
Homebase – CDC “Quickstrike” Acquisition & Project Funding	\$2,000,000.00
Visit Cincy – “Keep Cincinnati Vibrant” Major Events Funding	\$2,000,000.00
Small Business Development Support	\$1,000,000.00
Solar Panel Battery Backup Resiliency Hub	\$400,000.00
Total Place Based Support	\$5,400,000.00
Community Safety and Support	
Rapid Response Pilot Program	\$1,000,000.00
Fleet Replacement SWAT Truck	\$500,000.00
Boots on the Ground	\$120,646.00
Findlay Market Safety	\$75,000.00
Total Community Safety and Support	\$1,695,646.00
Total Close Out Support	\$7,095,646.00

Councilmember Meeka Owens

Councilmember Seth Walsh

STATEMENT

The FY23 Closeout Budget provides the City of Cincinnati a unique opportunity to use one-time funds to positively impact our City and our future. With this understanding, we seek to utilize these funds to prioritize **placed based** investment along **business corridors** that will provide a **return on investment** to close future budget deficits, while providing additional community safety and support.

Place Based Support

Homebase – CDC “Quickstrike” Acquisition & Project Funding: Redevelopment efforts can take years and decades to occur. We seek to create a pot of funding that can be accessed by community-based non-profits to be rapidly deployed for the acquisition of strategic assets in their communities to help jumpstart these efforts. Such assets can include vacant buildings or naturally occurring affordable housing that will be preserved as affordable housing. This money should be deployed by Homebase. These sites should be acquired with the intention of future redevelopment efforts or to preserve naturally occurring affordable housing.

Visit Cincy – “Keep Cincinnati Vibrant” Major Events Funding: A thriving downtown is critical for Cincinnati. Our downtown businesses are still recovering from the rise in costs and decline in tourism stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. With the Convention Center also going offline in 2024 for renovations, we must be strategic in ensuring that we continue to have major programs coming to Cincinnati, using our hotel rooms, and supporting our downtown businesses. This funding should go through Visit Cincy with the intention of supporting bringing the Forbes 30 under 30 Event to Cincinnati in 2024, keeping Black Tech Week in Cincinnati, and increasing operating dollars to Film Cincy to bring in more major motion pictures during the year to build on the over 60,000 hotel beds they were responsible for filling last year. Visit Cincy should work with all three groups to equitably split the money and ensure our goals and objectives are met.

Small Business Development Support: Small businesses in Cincinnati are hurting as we exit the COVID-19 period. Particularly Black-owned small businesses. We have done a spectacular job of helping launch businesses, but we now must help them expand and grow within our City. This should include a special emphasis that this money goes towards supporting existing small businesses, minority-owned small businesses, and small businesses in the West End. The funding should be used to expand their operations sustainably and help to fill vacant storefronts in overlooked neighborhoods in our City.

Solar Panel Battery Backup Resiliency Hub: Continuing to implement the Green Cincinnati Plan is key for the future of the City of Cincinnati. This will allow an additional allocation of funds for the Office of Environment and Sustainability to add one new location and partially fund an additional location (Millvale and Evanston) as Solar Panel Battery Backup Resiliency Hubs.

Community Safety and Support

Rapid Response Pilot Program: The trauma of gun violence radiates throughout the community in the immediate days, weeks and months. Our City must do better at immediately responding to gun violence and ensuring that the appropriate services are available to all who need them. The City should be moving forward with a pilot program for how to provide a rapid response to the community in the wake of gun violence using city agencies and external organizations to deploy needed resources to a community where gun violence has occurred quickly and effectively.

Fleet Replacement SWAT Truck: In critical response situations, our police force needs a SWAT Truck that can provide support to first responders. The current SWAT Truck does not always start immediately. This would be a massive liability in such a situation and should be replaced immediately.

Boots on the Ground: This program has proven to be a success over the last year and we wish to continue to support it with additional funding to help small initiatives take off in the City.

Findlay Market Safety Study: Findlay Market is one of our City’s most iconic places. They have seen an increase in safety concerns in the last several years. This Safety Study will assist in ensuring that all who visit Findlay Market, both those who live and work in the neighborhood and visitors, feel and are safe when visiting this icon.