

City of Cincinnati



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2026
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Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

Vice Mayor

June 9, 2026

MOTION

WE MOVE that the administration provide a report within 120 days on the pros and cons of combining the City's Parks Department and Cincinnati Recreation Commission into one Parks and Recreation Department. The report should include challenges to a merger of the two systems and possible arguments for keeping the two systems separated. The report also should include estimates of cost savings if Parks and Recreation were merged into one department, areas where services are duplicated within the current structure, and necessary steps to accomplish the merger. The report should set forth a viable structure for a combined Parks and Recreation Department, and provide any other pertinent information.

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

STATEMENT

The question often arises as to whether the City's Parks Department and Cincinnati Recreation Commission should be combined into one city department. Some have said that Cincinnati is one of the few cities where the departments are separated, and that separation creates duplication of services, myriad inefficiencies, and a waste of taxpayers' money. This motion is to gather information on the pros and cons of a merger of parks and recreation into one city department, understand the advantages and disadvantages to a merger of the two entities, and take a look at a viable structure.