

January 10, 2024

**To:** Mayor and Members of City Council  
**From:** Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager  
**Subject:** Emergency Ordinance – Designating the First Baptist Church of Walnut Hills located at 2926 Park Avenue in the Walnut Hills neighborhood as a local historic landmark

202400067

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Transmitted is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

**DESIGNATING** the First Baptist Church of Walnut Hills located at 2926 Park Avenue in the Walnut Hills neighborhood as a local historic landmark.

The City Planning Commission recommended approval of the designation at its November 17, 2023 meeting.

Summary:

On September 9, 2023, a complete Local Historic Landmark designation application was submitted to the Department of City Planning and Engagement for the First Baptist Church of Walnut Hills by the Cincinnati Preservation Association, Walnut Hills Area Council, First Baptist Church of Walnut Hills, and Vice-Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney. According to the Cincinnati Zoning Code, an application for the designation of a Local Historic Landmark shall be forwarded to the City Planning Commission following a public hearing of the Historic Conservation Board.

On October 23, 2023, the Historic Conservation Board (HCB) held a public hearing on the Local Historic Landmark designation application. A majority of board members present throughout the hearing and constituting a quorum, voted to recommend the First Baptist Church of Walnut Hills to the City Planning Commission and City Council for approval.

The City Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve and forward the application to City Council after considering the relationship of the proposed designation to the comprehensive plans of the city and of the community in which the proposed Historic Landmark is located; the effect of the proposed designation on the surrounding areas and economic development plans of the city; and other planning and historic preservation considerations.

The City Planning Commission recommended the following on November 17, 2023 to City Council:

**APPROVE** the proposed designation of First Baptist Church of Walnut Hills as a Local Historic Landmark at 2926 Park Ave in Walnut Hills under criterion 1 and 3 of the Cincinnati Zoning Code (§1435-07-1a); and

**ADOPT** the conservation guidelines.

cc: Katherine Keough-Jurs, FAICP, Director, Department of City Planning and Engagement