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Meeka D. Owens
Cincinnati City Council

February 25th, 2025

Protections for Native Plant/Pollinator Gardens

WE MOVE that the administration prepare a report within the next 30 days to devise a strategy for protecting native plant/pollinator gardens in the City of Cincinnati.

FURTHER WE MOVE that through this report there is a substantial review of Section 731 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code to identify where there could be revisions made to support citizens and the native plant gardens.

FURTHER WE MOVE that this report provides a general definition of what a native plant/pollinator garden is; how native plant/pollinator gardens should be maintained; and how native plant/pollinator gardens should be recognized.

FURTHER WE MOVE that the following city departments, and all other seen fit, be consulted during this formation of this report: Cincinnati Parks Department, Office of Environment and Sustainability, Law Department, Department of Building and Inspections.

Councilmember Meeka D. Owens

Councilmember Evan Nolan

Councilmember Seth Walsh

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STATEMENT

My office over the past few months has received multiple calls and letters from community members from multiple neighborhoods who want to see their native plants protected more, and for their overgrowth of native plants to have greater protections from the code enforcement process.

In the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan, we outline the goal to increase green spaces so that every resident has a green space within a half mile walk by 2028, one of the strategies to achieve that is by increasing biodiversity and health of native species in the city. We state one of the priority actions as to “support pollinator gardens, native plants, and education, including allowing the use of native grasses and pollinator plants in residential areas, and Low-Mow or No-Mow practices.”

To this point we have outlined that this City stands in support of native plants and pollinator gardens. This motion acts as a step to ensure that we identify solutions for our residents going forward.