

February 14, 2024

202400487

To: Mayor and Members of City Council
From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager *SM*
Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – Police: Moral Obligation Payment to Women Helping Women**

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the payment of \$250,000 from the Cincinnati Police Department General Fund non-personnel operating budget account no. 050x222x1000x7289 as a moral obligation to Women Helping Women for outstanding charges related to services rendered in support of the Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team in Calendar Year 2023.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the payment of \$250,000 from the Cincinnati Police Department General Fund non-personnel operating budget account no. 050x222x1000x7289 as a moral obligation to Women Helping Women (WHW) for outstanding charges related to services rendered in support of the Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team (DVERT) in Calendar Year 2023.

The Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team is a trauma-focused crisis response team that provides an on-call, on-scene response to domestic violence survivors to avert gender-based violence and prevent children from growing up in violent homes. Through the DVERT program, Women Helping Women provides on-scene safety planning, access to resources, empowerment, and engagement in ongoing support services.

The services WHW provides through DVERT are in direct support of the Cincinnati Police Department's (CPD) responses to calls for service related to domestic disputes and domestic violence. DVERT provides relief support to responding and investigating officers so that they can focus on criminal investigative aspects of domestic violence incidents. CPD and WHW launched the DVERT program in the Spring of 2018 and has fully integrated it into CPD Policy and Procedures.

The leveraged support funding for WHW was moved from the City Manager's Office to the Cincinnati Police Department for Fiscal Year 2023, which was under the tenure of the previous CPD Finance Division Manager. The current CPD Finance Division Manager was unaware of the transfer of funding and the need for a contract with WHW for Calendar Year 2023. CPD Finance Management staff are prepared to continue working with WHW to ensure all necessary contracts are completed moving forward, including the contract for Calendar Year 2024.

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to provide payment to Women Helping Women for the services rendered in Calendar Year 2023.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director
Karen Alder, Finance Director

Attachment