



Reggie Harris
Councilmember

April 5, 2024

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Councilmember Reggie Harris Updated Budget Priorities for FY25 Recommended Budget

We have engaged our City Administration, the community, and our partner organizations for the past several months to gather the greatest needs of Cincinnatians in the upcoming FY25 budget. In alignment with that engagement and the administration's five budget categories, the priorities below build off the progress this Council and Mayor have made thus far and set the path for a sustainable, safe, and vibrant future.

Public Safety

- Continued prioritization of Police and Fire recruit classes to battle the increasing attrition and work towards restoring full complement levels.
- Adherence to the *Cincy on Track* plan to address deferred capital maintenance in our public safety facilities, parks, recreation centers, health centers, and other critical public assets.
- Maintain funding for Pedestrian Safety projects so that we can be responsive to community-led project requests.

Thriving Neighborhoods

- Funding for our Community Development Corporations and direct support for our Neighborhood Business Districts to support economic development, especially in underserved communities.
- Prioritization of home repair funding like HARBOR and an expansion to include low-interest loans for moderate income homeowners.
- Continued funding support for the Affordable Housing Leveraged Fund and our other affordable housing funding buckets.

Growing Economic Opportunity

- Support for revenue-generating events, such as Blink, Forbes 30 under 30, and Black Tech Week that have a positive revenue impact and increase the city's tourism and notoriety.

- Continue to fund the Black Developers Conference, an event hosted by the City which has been successful in bridging the gap for minority developers, investors, and contractors to play a key piece in the city's growth.

Fiscal Sustainability

- The budget should be structurally balanced and prepare for FY26 when federal ARPA dollars will no longer be available.
- Prioritize leveraged support funding for organizations with high return on investment for the city and job creation, such as REDI, Greater Cincinnati Northern Kentucky African American Chamber, CincyTech, Centrifuse, and Film Cincy.
- The City should continue to pursue aggressive solutions to our pension needs.

Excellent and Equitable Service Delivery

- The budget should be consistent with the ordinance passed June 21, 2017, which directs the City Council to maintain appropriations to human services at 1.5% of the General Fund Budget.
- Support technological and personnel investments to ensure permitting, zoning approvals, and contracting is done in a timely and efficient manner for our partners.
- Support the expansion of our parking enforcement officers through additional FTEs and bringing them on full-time.
- Work towards offering our city solicitors a competitive wage to retain the best talent possible in supporting the city's legal needs.
- Make necessary improvements to the hiring process so we are recruiting efficiently, offering a positive experience for applicants, and supporting our departments' staffing needs.



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