



**Mark Jeffreys**  
Councilmember

April 4, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**  
**Budget Policy Direction to City Administration**  
**for Recommended FY26 Budget**

**Operating Priorities**

- Continued investment and implementation of ACT for Cincy to keep our city safe:
  - Safe and Clean Fund
  - Boots on the Ground Fund
  - Human Services Fund at 1.5%
  - Alternative Response Program
  - Necessary recruit classes to achieve authorized strength
- Incremental pension increase to achieve 2045 solvency
- Create and/or consolidate programs to assist low-moderate income property owners with home repairs and vacant building rehabilitations
- Invest in making Keep Cincinnati Beautiful's Bulk Item Drop Off year-round. This has reduced illegal dumping by 35%, saving at least \$500,000 in clean-up costs.
- Invest in Red Bike's "Strengthen and Sustain" plan, as outlined in Resolution #202500235 to support their operations
- Renew the investment in Mental Health Services for Transgender and Non-Binary Youth as outlined in Motion #202402384
- Create a Downtown Neighborhood Plan that incorporates the goal to create 20,000 new housing units by 2035 and multimodal connections into Queensgate
- Increase investment in community developments through the Neighborhood Catalytic Capital Investment Program (such as projects like CCAC, ROMAC, Artworks, Pig Works, etc.)
- Invest in additional parking enforcement officers

**Capital Priorities**

- Implement the Capital Improvement Program, as outlined in Report #202500559, to chip away at deferred capital maintenance needs
- "Pave, Pave, Pave": Utilize CSR proceeds to increase funding for the Street Rehabilitation Program to maintain our public roadways, pave additional lane miles, and advance the Complete Streets policy
  - Utilize the Complete Streets process to coordinate and implement green stormwater infrastructure such as "bioswales" and "rain gardens" to alleviate storm sewer capacity and overland flooding
- Increase investments in Pedestrian Safety Improvements and the Bicycle Transportation Program
- Outline a plan for necessary City Fleet replacements over the next 5+ years
- Increase investment in community developments through the Quick Strike Acquisition Fund



## Opportunities for Revenue and Cost Recovery

### Optimize Parking Revenue:

- Modernize and/or expand Paid Parking Zones, so the City can maximize parking revenues, while effectively managing heavily trafficked areas.
- Increase parking revenues via new enforcement officers and enforcement outside of the urban basin.

### Implement Fees for Certain Services

- Implement “lift fees”. In partnership with City Council, pursue fees to counteract institutions who call CFD to pick up patients who have fallen even when there is no medical emergency, ultimately shifting the cost onto taxpayers. Other cities such as Chicago, LA, Indianapolis have instituted “lift fees” charging the institution for that cost.
- “You break it, you pay for it”. In partnership with City Council, pursue charging reckless drivers fines for crashes that cause damage to public assets or other reckless behavior that causes damage to public assets. Many other cities such as LA, Columbus, Kansas City, Green Bay, Chicago, etc have some way of charging reckless drivers who are speeding for the cost of repairing damaged public infrastructure.
- Charge higher fees for non-city residents for certain city services (e.g. parks/rec rentals, summer camps, golf fees and other public use fees) similar to other entities that charge out-of-city users a higher rate e.g. Great Parks of Hamilton County charges higher rates for non-Hamilton County residents.

### Get Reimbursed from the State of Ohio

- Pursue reimbursement from Ohio Highway Patrol for responding to & investigating crashes as well as traffic enforcement on Interstates within the city limits. OHHP handles these functions in rural and suburban jurisdictions throughout the state.
- Pursue reimbursement from ODOT for snow removal on State Routes that run through the City of Cincinnati. ODOT clears snow and ice on State Routes in rural and suburban communities.

### Partner with Hamilton County to Identify Other Savings

- Form joint City/County task force to explore how to achieve shared services savings of at least 5% in next 10 years.



---

Councilmember Mark Jeffreys