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Mark Jeffreys
Councilmember

June 3rd, 2024

MOTION

City Representation in City Funded Organizations

WE MOVE that the Administration report back to Council within sixty (60) with recommendations for requiring organizations that receive funds from the City to allow the City the option of appointing a representative to those organizations' board of directors. The report should consider a funding threshold for the requirement, term length, voting abilities, and the process for appointment.

STATEMENT

The City of Cincinnati regularly provides financial support to organizations and institutions that it believes serve the public good. While the processes for receiving public funds from the City of Cincinnati are competitive and fair, with stringent requirements for achieving desired goals, it can often be difficult for the City to ensure an organization's success without such oversight.

Earlier this year, it was the decision of Cincinnati Red Bike's board of directors to permanently shut down service and dissolve as an organization, despite receiving nearly \$2 million from the City over the past 10 years. However, the City of Cincinnati saw the value in the bike-share network and allocated nearly \$200,000 along with private donations to continue operating for the next year. In the meantime, a small working group has been meeting to create a sustainable structural and financial model that will allow Red Bike to succeed long into the future. It is understood by the working group that this success will require an overhaul of its board of directors so that it includes representatives of its stakeholders, namely the City of Cincinnati.

The intent of this report and potential outcome is to strengthen the partnership between the City and the organizations that it funds, as well as providing oversight to avoid scenarios such as Red Bike's.

Councilmember Mark Jeffreys

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James J. [unclear]