

May 8, 2024

TO: Mayor and Members of City Council

202401295

FROM: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

SUBJECT: **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE — 2025 Urban Forestry Special Assessment Determination**

Attached is an emergency ordinance captioned:

DETERMINING to proceed with a special assessment for the Urban Forestry Program for the calendar year 2025, for the control of blight and disease of shade trees and for planting, maintaining, trimming, and removing shade trees in the public right-of-way in the City of Cincinnati's Urban Forestry Maintenance District.

The Urban Forestry assessment must be enacted by City Council every year to assure funding for street tree maintenance and planting. An ordinance must be approved by City Council to proceed with the street tree program in accordance with the resolution of necessity previously passed by City Council.

January 28, 2024, Council passed Resolution No. 14-2024 pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.) declaring the necessity of assessing \$0.31 per front foot for the control of blight and disease of shade trees within the public right-of-way. One objection was filed to the special assessment pursuant to O.R.C. Section 727.15. Council established an Assessment Equalization Board via Ordinance No. 0127-2024 to consider this objection. The objection was heard on April 30, 2024, and a report has been submitted to Council.

This transmittal is the second step of a three-step process to establish the special urban forestry assessment for the City of Cincinnati for 2025.

The Administration recommends the adoption of this emergency ordinance.

Attachment I – Emergency Ordinance

cc: Jason Barron, Director of Parks
C. Courtney, Division Manager Natural Resources
R. Hunt, Supervisor of Urban Forestry
H. Herta Fairbanks, CFO Parks