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Meeka D. Owens
Cincinnati City Council

March 4th, 2025

City Owned/Maintained Cemeteries Directory

WE MOVE that the administration prepare a report within 60 days to create a directory of all city owned or city-maintained cemeteries.

FURTHER WE MOVE that the administration directly reference what department(s) have the responsibility of maintaining specific cemeteries.

Councilmember Meeka D. Owens

Councilmember Mark Jefferys

Councilmember Evan Nolan

Councilmember Jeff Cramerding

STATEMENT

In December of 2024, Councilmembers Owens and Jefferys were approached by a couple of University of Cincinnati history professors about the overgrowth that is present at Cincinnati's Potter's Field. Many in Cincinnati are unaware of the Potter's Field in Price Hill. Today it is roughly 26 acres on the northwest side of Guerley Road, this land was acquired by the city in 1852. While the exact number of individuals buried at the Potter's Field is unknown, and is likely to stay unknown forever, it is assumed that over 20,000 people have been laid to rest at this site. It is assumed that at least 6 veterans of the American Civil War, one Spanish War veteran, and an unclear number of World War One soldiers are buried without grave markers.

This Potter's Field is a collection of what many people may see as the unseen of Cincinnati, in a rather literal way. Many of those buried at Potter's Field were buried there because they could not be identified or were apart of moments where there were large amounts of death that overwhelmed other facilities.

Potter's Field right now is not properly maintained to the standard that over 20,000 of our previous residents or visitors deserve. If we allow our city's past to become overgrown by weeds and bushes, then we are silent in the acknowledgement of our collective history.

