

May 20th, 2026

Cincinnati City Council
Council Chambers, City Hall
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Dear Mayor and Members of the Housing and Growth Committee:

We are transmitting herewith a Resolution captioned as follows:

APPROVING The Banks Urban Design Plan Update as the planning guide for The Banks in the Central Business District neighborhood.

Summary:

The City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County partnered to create *The Banks Urban Design Plan Update* as the guiding planning document for The Banks district. This plan update is crucial in creating a coordinated future vision for The Banks for all major stakeholders, and the plan specifically discusses three “District Drivers” to pursue: A Banks District that is Bigger and Bolder, A Quality District that Drives Value, and A Riverfront Built for Game Day, Designed for Everyday. The plan recaps the district’s history and envisions a bold future with new construction of up to 1,300 residential units, 100-150 hotel rooms, and 60,000-80,000 square feet of neighborhood-serving retail over the next decade, along with a new centerpiece plaza and shared streets. The plan also provides design guidelines and recommendations for how to improve branding and to create a high-quality place.

The City Planning Commission recommended the following on May 15, 2026 to City Council:

APPROVE the proposed district plan, The Banks Urban Design Plan Update, as the guiding planning document for The Banks in the Central Business District.

Motion to Approve: Mr. Dansby
Seconded: Mr. Weber

Ayes: Ms. Albi
Ms. Beltran
Mr. Dansby
Mr. Eby
Mr. Samad
Mr. Weber
Excused: Ms. Sesler

THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION



Katherine Keough-Jurs, FAICP, Director
Department of City Planning & Engagement