

May 28, 2026

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager 202601667

Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – Economic Inclusion: 2026 Business Enterprise Expo Donations**

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager and employees of the Department of Economic Inclusion (“Department”) to solicit and accept donations of money, in-kind contributions, participation fees, and other things of value from the business community, individual benefactors, and other appropriate sources for the City’s 2026 Business Enterprise Expo; **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the donated funds into Special Events Fund 314; and **AUTHORIZING** the Department to hold resources donated pursuant to this ordinance, which exceed the total 2026 Business Enterprise Expo expenses, in Special Events Fund 314 to be utilized for future business development events hosted by the Department.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager and employees of the Department of Economic Inclusion (DEI) to solicit and accept donations of money, in-kind contributions, participation fees, and other things of value from the Cincinnati business community, individual benefactors, and other appropriate sources for the City’s 2026 Business Enterprise Expo. This Emergency Ordinance also authorizes the Director of Finance to deposit donated funds into Special Events Fund 314. Finally, it authorizes DEI to hold donated resources that exceed the total cost of the 2026 Business Enterprise Expo in Special Events Fund 314 to be utilized for future business development events.

This annual event allows DEI-certified businesses to meet larger businesses within the City, promote peer-to-peer networking, and strengthen the relationship between DEI and the City’s business community. DEI will also recruit new businesses. Previous events had over 300 attendees including business participants and community partners.

Soliciting and accepting donations for the 2026 Business Enterprise Expo is in accordance with the “Collaborate” goal to “[w]ork in synergy with the Cincinnati community” and strategy to “[u]nite our communities” as described on pages 209-211 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to solicit donations and sponsorships for the planning and coordination of the 2026 Business Enterprise Expo.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director
Steve Webb, Finance Director

Attachment

