

October 21, 2020

To: Mayor and Members of City Council  
From: Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager  
Subject: **Implementation of Tax Increment Financing District Policy for Affordable Housing**

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**Reference Document # 202000851**

Cincinnati City Council at its session on June 24, 2020, passed Ordinance No. 0206-2020 which required:

Section 2. That City Council requests that the City Administration prepare a report no later than September 8, 2020 with recommendations for the immediate adoption of the policy established by this ordinance, including without limitation, (i) a method by which the amount expended on affordable housing projects from the TIF Districts each year is publicly available and (ii) the number of years an affordable housing project must meet the requirements set forth herein.

**BACKGROUND**

City Council Ordinance No. 0206-2020 established a policy of setting aside 25% of revenues collected within tax increment financing incentive districts (TIF District) established pursuant to Section 5709.40(C) of the Ohio Revised Code for affordable housing projects within the districts.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

The Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) will entertain requests from developers and local non-profit corporations to use TIF District funds to acquire property for the construction or renovation of affordable housing or to otherwise develop affordable housing units through a formal request by submission of a financial assistance application. This method of request for assistance is similar to our already established process of requests for tax abatements, property sales, or job creation tax credits. Requests can be made throughout the year as projects are identified and all other sources of funding are secured, such as Historic Tax Credits or Low-Income Housing Tax Credits.

DCED also has an existing process for identifying and vetting potential affordable housing projects requesting gap financing from the City in its Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). DCED's NOFA program is funded annually by City Council through the allocation of Federal

funding from the Community Development Block Grant program and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program and from City Capital funding. Pending funding availability, DCED issues one NOFA each fiscal year that is split into two rounds - one in late winter (February/March) and the other in the summer (June/July). For projects recommended for funding through the NOFA process, if appropriate for a given project DCED may offer TIF District funding for projects located within a given TIF District, as TIF District funding for housing construction is limited by state law for use within the applicable TIF District. The addition of TIF District funding for affordable housing to the NOFA process will create an additional resource for affordable housing and stretch other existing resources to projects outside of TIF Districts.

### **TERMS OF ASSISTANCE**

The intention is that the TIF District funding will be deployed as loans to selected projects. Unlike traditional bank financing, DCED will be able to provide flexible loan terms that will make more projects feasible. Such terms may include full or partial forgiveness. Loans will be awarded for up to 40% of the total project cost not to exceed \$1 million. DCED will require periods of affordability which range from 10 years to 20 years depending on the project and the requirements of the other project funding sources (HOME, Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), etc.); however, in no circumstances will the affordability period be less than 10 years. For appropriations of TIF District funding DCED will highlight the recommended target Area Median Income as well as the required affordability period when City Council considers legislation to appropriate TIF District funding for a project.

This memo is for informational purposes.

Copy: Markiea L. Carter, Interim Director, Department of Community and Economic Development *MLC*