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**Jeff Cramerding**  
Councilmember

4/8/25

## **MOTION**

### **Council Budget Policy Direction to City Administration for Recommended FY2026 General Fund Operating Budget**

WE MOVE that the City Administration prepare a Fiscal Year 2026 Recommended General Fund Budget which respects the following policy guidelines and priorities:

#### **Public Works, Fleet, and Quality of Life**

The top priority of this budget should be a renewed focus on Public Works and related departments to create real and measurable improvements in the delivery of basic City services. As the City's Quality of Life and Budget Priorities resident survey highlighted, these services are a priority for citizens and their expectations are not consistently being met. To do this we need to increase strategic investment in Fleet Services to ensure that our City employees have the tools necessary to accomplish their goals.

1. Strategic and funded long-term plan for upgrading the fleet and fleet support services.
2. Continue to improve 311 to better track Customer Services Request (CSRs), response times, and remediation rates.
3. Fully staffed Law Department, with a focus on the Quality-of-Life Division, with competitive pays schedules to attract and retain talent.
4. Continue funding for Rec at Night and opportunities for expanded youth programming.
5. Continue support for the Building Inspector Training Academy.

#### **Public Safety**

Cincinnati's Police, Fire, and public safety systems are best-in-class and consistently a top priority of constituents. We need to maintain funding to continue this high level of service and look for strategic upgrades.

1. Fully funded police and fire cadet classes.
2. Continue funding for the Emergency Communication Center's Alternative Response to Crisis (ARC) and Community Responders teams.
3. Additional funds for a new SWAT vehicle.
4. Continue funding for the CPD victim liaison unit.
5. Fund Act for Cincy violence reduction portfolio and action teams.

### **Equitable Economic Development**

The City should focus on increasing economic development in neighborhoods that are not seeing investment or development. Priority should be low-income neighborhoods where the TIF (tax increment financing funds) are not sufficient to catalyze development.

1. Continue funding for the Affordable Housing Leverage Fund.
2. Another funded cycle for the Quick Strike program.
  - a. Funds should be leveraged from the Connected Communities Fund for Quick Strike projects.
3. Resources for the creation of the Office of Strategic Growth.
4. Support for the Building Futures program to create paths towards careers in the building trades.
5. Continue the Neighborhood Business District Improvement Plan (NBDIP), with support for the Neighborhood Catalytic Capital Investment Programs, and organizations including the ROMAC, Asianati, the Clifton Cultural Arts Center, and Artworks.

### **Pension**

City government is as great as its employees. To ensure that their contributions are respected, as well as to retain and attract talent, the City must continue to work towards a sustainable pension system with a goal of 2045 solvency.

### **Fiscal Sustainability**

The City must increasingly look for efficiencies, cost-savings, and new sources of revenue, including:

1. Study shared services and/or combining the City and county prosecutor's office.
2. An increased focus on parking enforcement, including expanded hours of enforcement.
3. Study increased user fees, particularly for non-City residents.

**Cincy on Track**

Council endorses the Cincy on Track plan. Deferred maintenance spending should increase to address failing infrastructure. This progress must be transparent and measured. Street rehabilitation should be the highest priority. There needs to be an emphasis on climate-informed investments and identifying green solutions.

1. Prioritize CSR proceeds to increase funding for the Street Rehabilitation Program.

**Human Services and Leveraged Support**

Despite the challenging environment, the budget should attempt to maintain leveraged support funding and other funding sources for organizations that support City priorities. These include:

1. Maintain Human Services Funding at 1.5%.
2. Support for the Human Services office with one new FTE.
3. Maintain funding for rental assistance and support for eviction prevention programs.
4. Continue funding for Boots on the Ground, Seeds of Change, and Safe and Clean at existing levels.
5. Follow through on Council's prior commitments to funding Red Bike and mental health care for transgender youth.

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*Councilmember Jeff Cramerding*

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