



Reggie Harris Councilmember

4/11/2024

MOTION

Council Budget Policy Direction to City Administration for FY25 Budget Update

WE MOVE that the City Administration prepare a Fiscal Year 2025 Recommended General Fund Budget which respects the following policy guidelines and priorities:

Public Safety

1. Support public safety through continued investment in recruit classes and mental health programming, as well as repair and replacement of the aging fleet and infrastructure.
2. Continued funding for the Pedestrian Safety program and initiatives that support safer, more walkable streets and traffic safety improvements in accordance with the Complete Streets Ordinance. These efforts should prioritize problematic streets in our underserved communities, like Queen City Ave.
3. Fund homelessness prevention, eviction prevention and shelter support.
4. Comprehensive approach to community violence intervention that uplifts community leaders, youth interventions, alternate responses to crisis, healthy food access and victim assistance. We should continue to fund proven programming through Boots on the Ground, Safe and Clean, and removing barriers for engagement events like Saturday Hoops.
5. Establishment of the Office of Equity to address underlying causes of violence and promote trauma-informed policy.
6. Funding for improved secure gun storage and safe storage education.

Thriving Neighborhoods

1. Continued support for CDCs and our neighborhood business districts through operating support, acquisition funding, and maintaining existing programs like NBDIP.
2. Addressing our deferred maintenance backlog by capitalizing on the sale of the CSR and following the spirit of *Cincy on Track* by investing the dollars equitably and transparently

3. Expanding home repair funding like HARBOR to include low-interest loans for middle income homeowners who do not currently qualify for City assistance. Assist programming that helps keep people healthy and in their homes like Warm-Up Cincy, rental improvement, and our lead-pipe replacement program.
4. Continue and expand funding for the Affordable Housing Leveraged Fund and City housing programs, with a focus on low-income seniors and creating diverse, welcoming communities.
5. Services and programming for our youth, including arts and accessible childcare.
6. Resources for Community Councils to better train them and enable them to do vital work in our neighborhoods.
7. Prioritize green infrastructure, such as multi-modal transportation, stormwater retention, and an energy loan fund.
8. Investing in Parks and Recreation infrastructure in our underserved communities, including the Mill Creek Corridor and West Side communities.

Growing Economic Opportunity

1. Strong investment in growth opportunities, especially in our disinvested communities that bring jobs, housing, and are catalytic.
2. Supporting revenue-generating events that promote culture and innovation.
3. Creatively supporting the growth and expansion of our MBEs, SBEs, minority developers and small businesses through programming and funding for technical and financial assistance.
4. Maintaining robust employment training opportunities for youth and adults through the continuation of Career Pathways, Building Futures, and partnerships with our green jobs organizations.
5. Consider property tax relief solutions for low-income homeowners.

Fiscal Sustainability

1. The FY25 Budget should be balanced with a path towards being structurally balanced following the use of the remainder of our Federal dollars.
2. Leveraged support should prioritize organizations with a high return on investment that diversify our tax base and bring jobs to the city.
3. Pursue aggressive measures to address the unfunded pension liability.
4. Have a heavy focus on securing Federal and State grants to leverage city dollars to the maximum extent.

Excellent and Equitable Service Delivery

1. Continue to fulfill the 1.5% GF obligation to the Human Services Fund.

2. Invest in technology and personnel to improve permitting, contracting, zoning, and other city processes. Consider increasing capacity in the City Manager's office through the addition of an Assistant City Manager.
3. Improve accuracy and efficiency of our 311 system and Code Enforcement to continue to alleviate litter, blight and substandard housing conditions in our communities.
4. Expand the Parking Enforcement division to increase parking revenue and tackle parking-related quality of life issues.
5. Support our Law Department through competitive salaries and uplifting the Quality-of-Life division.
6. Streamline and improve HR to optimize the employee training and hiring experience to attract and retain top talent.
7. Continue to focus on community engagement, specifically reaching community members who typically do not engage with the City and improving communications strategies and techniques to make sure citizens are well-informed participants in our processes.

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