



Greg Landsman
Councilmember

202101637

April 30, 2021

MOTION

WE MOVE that Council adopt the following framework for addressing the distribution of American Rescue Plan funding (knowing hereafter as “ARP funding”), and that discussions of individual pieces of legislation appropriating ARP funding are addressed within this framework:

- **We confront fiscal stability of the City of Cincinnati *first*.** In acknowledgement of the dire need to quell Cincinnati’s fiscal insecurity, Council should, above all, prioritize addressing deficits and debt, and replenishing City reserves. This allows staff to better prepare for the next three years, and ensure the City can maintain and strengthen core services.
 - *Note: By approving the Administration’s request for \$135 million for fiscal stability, Council would complete this first priority.*
- **After prioritizing fiscal security, Council will prioritize emergency relief in two areas: jobs and housing. This includes support:**
 - **...for small-businesses (incl. bars and restaurants), nonprofits, human services organizations, and arts groups who require time-sensitive financial assistance due to being sincerely impacted by this pandemic.** Council recognizes the immediate nature of their needs, and commits to prioritizing those groups who, without Council support, are in immediate peril. Council commits to involving partners such as the Greater Cincinnati Regional Chamber, Artswave, African American Chamber, and Mortar in these discussions, to ensure emergency relief funding to groups is equitable. To most effectively address the needs of these groups and ensure funding is leveraged to greatest capacity, Council may seek to create a combined “Emergency Relief Fund,” which could sit outside of City Hall and be open to potential private-sector matches.
 - **...for keeping Cincinnati’s families in their homes, and making sure landlords are made whole.** Council notes that a mass-eviction crisis would exacerbate the health crisis we currently face, as well as negatively impact children’s outcomes in issues of reading readiness and more. Therefore, Council commits to efforts that help landlords and tenants access needed rental assistance funding.
- **After City fiscal stability and emergency relief is appropriated, Council will move toward Transformative and Capital investments that will allow Cincinnati to rebuild as a stronger city—especially for those most marginalized.** These long-term, strategy projects require continued public engagement—including hearings and presentations—and robust work with the Administration.



Greg Landsman
Councilmember

Council recognizes that issues such as affordable housing, universal childcare, neighborhood empowerment and individual neighborhood projects, and other capital investments necessitate serious community engagement, and should be allocated thoughtfully and intentionally.

We move that Council adopt the above framework as we move forward in the process of allocating ARP funding.

STATEMENT

The American Rescue Package (ARP) offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve the lives of our constituents, support children and families, help local businesses grow, and ensure our neighborhoods thrive. Thoughtful distribution of funding could drastically reduce generational poverty and grow a more robust, racially diverse middle class; I know all of Council is excited to distribute this funding to those who need it, as efficiently and effectively as possible. That being said, since we have never been afforded an opportunity like this before, it is crucial that Council can find consensus on priorities and process as we move forward. We need a united front as we work toward meaningful investments, and a plan for addressing our constituents' needs that is clearly communicated and understood by the public and the Administration.

This is why I propose we adopt the above high-level framework for addressing the distribution of ARP funding. Committing to this framework does not require committing to specific projects, but merely a commitment to the overarching vision and prioritization process, with the intention of leveraging this unique opportunity to be as transformative as possible. I believe that thinking about the funding appropriation process this way will allow Council and the community to triage the immediate, emergent needs of our community, while allowing time for deeper and more comprehensive discussion of longer-term projects.

Councilmember Greg Landsman

City of Cincinnati



801 Plum Street, Suite 351
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Phone: (513) 352-5232
Email: greg.landsman@cincinnati-oh.gov
Web: www.cincinnati-oh.gov

Greg Landsman
Councilmember
