



City of Cincinnati

Cincinnati City Council

Meeting Minutes

801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 2:00 PM Council Chambers, Room 300

Council convened at 2:01 P.M., Mayor John Cranley, Presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Vice Mayor Christopher Smitherman, Councilmember Steve Goodin, Councilmember Jan-Michele Kearney, Councilmember Liz Keating, Councilmember Greg Landsman, Councilmember David Mann, President Pro Tem Chris Seelbach, and Councilmember Wendell Young

Absent: Councilmember Betsy Sundermann

All Councilmembers and Administrative staff including Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager and Andrew Garth, City Solicitor participated remotely

Councilmember Sundermann was excused from today's meeting

Also in attendance was Clerk of Council Melissa Autry

Council observed a moment of silence prayer and recited the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.

Without objection the Minutes of the previous session of Council were ordered Approved and Filed.

MAYOR CRANLEY

- 1. ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, from Andrew W. Garth, **AMENDING** Ordinance 384-2020 to approve the Mayor's proposed appointments to the Economic Development Reform Panel, extending the panel's reporting date to August 1, 2021, and making minor clarifications to the ordinance. [202100317](#)

Referred to Budget & Finance Committee
Enactment No: 0031-2021

Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB): 52 members; 27 Female/ 25 Male; 24 Minority/ 28 White

- 2. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint Altaf Khurram to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board [202100323](#)

(SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Male)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 3. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint [202100329](#)
Michael Beck to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Male/White)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 4. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint [202100335](#)
Paula Brehm-Heeger to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Female/White)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 5. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint [202100342](#)
Renee Dean to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Female/AA)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 6. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint [202100348](#)
DeJuan Gossett to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Male/AA)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 7. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint [202100354](#)
Laurence Jones to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Male/AA)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 8. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint [202100360](#)
Matt Jones to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Male/White)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 9. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint [202100366](#)
Diana Mairose to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Female/White)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 10. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint [202100373](#)

Timothy McCartney to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Male/White)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 11. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint Peter McLinden to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Male/White) [202100380](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 12. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint Matthew Owens to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Male/White) [202100387](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 13. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint Bridget Patton to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Female/AA) [202100394](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 14. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint Michael Prus to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Male/White) [202100400](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 15. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint Eric Rademacher to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Male/White) [202100406](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 16. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint Diana Small to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Female/AA) [202100412](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 17. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint Stephanie Summerow-Dumas to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Female/AA) [202100418](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 18. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint Roberta Thomas to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Female) [202100424](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 19. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint Amy Waldbilling to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Female) [202100430](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 20. REAPPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby reappoint Dani Watkins to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This reappointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Female/White) [202100436](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 21. APPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby appoint Margaret (Peg) Albert to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This appointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Female) [202100440](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 22. APPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby appoint Markeia Carter to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This appointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Female/AA) [202100442](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 23. APPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby appoint David Cook to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This appointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Male/AA) [202100446](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 24. APPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby appoint Jesse Grissom to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This appointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Male/AA) [202100450](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 25. APPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby appoint Myron Hughes to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment [202100454](#)

Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This appointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Male/AA)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 26. APPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby appoint Deval Motka to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This appointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules. (Female)

[202100457](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

- 27. APPOINTMENT**, submitted by Mayor John Cranley, I hereby appoint Rhema Nwaneri to the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board (SWORWIB) for a term of two years. This appointment is submitted to City Council for its advice and consent pursuant to its Rules.

[202100461](#)

Held one week pursuant to rule of council

MR. LANDSMAN

- 28. MOTION, (AMENDED)** submitted by Councilmember Landsman, Many of our frontline workers receive some of the lowest wages. They have shown up to work every day during this pandemic, and **WE MOVE** that the Administration pursue a lump-sum payment of no less than \$1,000 in "Hazard Pay" for these lower-wage, critical frontline workers who deliver core services that citizens depend on from their city government. *We ask that the Administration prioritize City employees who are unable to work from home and deliver core services that our residents depend on; many of these workers are represented by AFSCME, or the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and fills roles such as our nurses and sanitation workers. AFSCME employees are paid, on average, less than most other City staff, and are at high risk of infecting COVID-19.*

[202100290](#)

Referred to Budget & Finance Committee

- 29. MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Landsman, **WE MOVE** that if there is a conflict between the ordinance containing the Balanced Development Scorecard policy passed in connection herewith and the existing commercial CRA policy in Ordinance No. 275-2017, it's the policy of Council that the Balanced Development scorecard policy applies.

[202100291](#)

Referred to Budget & Finance Committee

- 30. MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Landsman, Cincinnati families are facing unprecedented financial challenges, and the fear of eviction continues to loom for tens of thousands of our children and families. We recognize that our nonprofit partners have, and will continue to receive, significant rental assistance support. But the process of getting these resources to families quickly, and before they end up in eviction court, has been a challenge. As such, **WE MOVE** that the administration pursue a request for information (RFI) to determine who can build a shared data system to enhance eviction prevention programmatic performance and coordination. Such a system would allow providers to more effectively allocate relief and prevention services, keeping more and more of our

[202100292](#)

children and families in stable housing. We ask that the RFI inquire into: 1. Which companies or providers could create such a data system, 2. How much it would cost the city to support the creation of one, 3. How quickly we could build the platform, and 4. How best to get our eviction prevention support providers onto such a system.

Referred to Law & Public Safety Committee

- 31. MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Landsman, **WE MOVE** that the Administration draft legislation, if necessary, to allow the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to create a formal internal policy to best leverage the City's debt forgiveness capacity, in order to 1. Better preserve existing affordable housing, and 2. Help finance new affordable housing options in the City.

[202100293](#)

Referred to Budget & Finance Committee

- 32. MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Landsman, **WE MOVE** that the Administration draft legislation establishing a Minority Real Estate Development Capacity Building Program to support the mentorship of minority real estate development professionals. This program should lift up and provide additional opportunities for minority developers, especially Black real estate professionals who have the potential to be leaders of new minority-led commercial development firms. This is part of the City's larger "Balanced Development" efforts to ensure real inclusion of development efforts in Cincinnati. The proposed program, requiring ~\$150,000 in funding, would extend opportunities for minority developers to actively participate in and shape an inclusive growth strategy for the City - one that integrates the new Balanced Development Scorecard proposed by my office. The program would draw from similar successful efforts in Detroit, where in they created an "Equitable Development Initiative." Our efforts should build on best practice efforts such as this one, as well as others around the Country (spelled out in the Administration's 2020 Balanced Development Report to Council).

[202100294](#)

Referred to Economic, Growth & Zoning Committee

- 33. MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Landsman, Last year, the City of Cincinnati created a financial forgiveness program for Greater Cincinnati Waterworks' low-income customers. This project - enabled by our City's "Home Rule" - gave direct relief to struggling families amidst the Coronavirus pandemic. The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD), however, has split possession; Hamilton County owns MSD, the City of Cincinnati runs it. Due to this arrangement, the City is barred from exploring any meaningful relief programs for low-income rate-payers, and the County has to spend millions on outside consultants and lawyers to perform its role in the MSD relationship. **WE MOVE** that the Administration conduct a report on the potential savings for low-income ratepayers if MSD were able to leverage the City's Home Rule advantage, as well as the savings associated with the aforementioned millions in outside consultants and lawyers with an updated relationship between the City and County. By conducting such a report, we could better determine the positive impacts of an updated partnership between the City and County.

[202100295](#)

Referred to Budget & Finance Committee

- 34. MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Landsman, Similar to actions taken in Memphis and Minneapolis, according to the City's 2020 Balanced Development Report, **WE MOVE** that the City pursue zoning changes to allow for per-property waivers on parking minimums and density requirements for affordable housing projects.

[202100296](#)

Referred to Economic, Growth & Zoning Committee

- 35. MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Landsman, **WE MOVE** to request that the Administration provide an update on Ordinance 402-2019, which guarantees that eviction filing data from the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts be made available to service providers partnering with the City of Cincinnati in eviction relief services and eviction prevention initiatives. To date, we have not been able to obtain this data in a regular and reliable manner. The City may need to provide support to the Clerk of Courts to secure this data, and we encourage the Administration to pursue that support. Getting this data in the hands of our partners will allow them to help our residents struggling to pay rent with rental assistance, the ability to stay in their homes, avoid an eviction, or even avoid having to attend eviction court.

[202100297](#)

Referred to Law & Public Safety Committee

MS. SUNDERMANN**MS. KEATING**

- 36. MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Sundermann and Keating, **WE MOVE** that the Administration prioritize in the FY22 budget funding for 40 recruits for Fire Recruit Class #118 to ensure that start date is no later than July 1, 2021, and for 40 recruits for Fire Recruit Class #119 to target a start date of April 1, 2022. **WE FURTHER MOVE** that the Administration continue to pursue SAFER grant funding opportunities when available to assist in offsetting the cost of these recruit classes. (STATEMENT ATTACHED)

[202100278](#)

Referred to Budget & Finance Committee

MR. YOUNG

- 37. MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Young, **WE MOVE** that the undersigned move that the City Solicitor issue a legal opinion addressing the following question: "Under the City Charter, does the Mayor have legal authority to negotiate or direct any development contracts with Developers who want to do business with the City." (STATEMENT ATTACHED)

[202100268](#)

Referred to Law & Public Safety Committee

CITY MANAGER

- 38. REPORT**, dated 1/21/2021 submitted by Paula Boggs, Muething, City Manager, on a communication from the State of Ohio, Division of Liquor

[202001977](#)

Control, advising of a permit application for VISION HOSPITALITY GROUP INC, DBA KINLEY CINCINNATI DOWNTOWN, 37 W. 7th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. (#9287455, D5A, NEW) [Objections: NONE]

Filed

- 39. REPORT**, dated 1/27/2021, submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, regarding Special Event Permit Application for 2021 ST. PATRICK'S PARADE. [202100103](#)

Held

- 40. REPORT**, dated 1/27/2021, submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, regarding Parking Meters Along Hamilton Avenue and Hoffner Street. (SEE REFERENCE DOC #202001629) [202100258](#)

Referred to Neighborhoods Committee

- 41. ORDINANCE** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 1/27/2021, **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate grants in an amount up to \$10,000 from the Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation Sports Matter Community Grants Program for the purpose of funding youth programs at the Price Hill Community Center and the Millvale Community Center. [202100270](#)

Referred to Budget & Finance Committee

Enactment No: 0028-2021

- 42. ORDINANCE** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 1/27/2021, **ESTABLISHING** new capital improvement program project account no. 980x232x212347, "Kirby & Bruce Safety Improvement Grants," for the purpose of providing grant resources for the realignment of the existing intersection at Kirby Avenue and Bruce Avenue to reduce crashes and improve safety; **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept and appropriate safety improvement grant resources (CFDA #20.205) in an amount up to \$126,000 from the Ohio Department of Transportation to the newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x232x212347, "Kirby & Bruce Safety Improvement Grants," for the purpose of providing resources for roadway safety improvements (PID 111252) at the existing intersection of Kirby Avenue and Bruce Avenue to reduce crashes and improve safety; and further **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to enter into any agreements necessary for the receipt and administration of these grant resources. [202100272](#)

Referred to Budget & Finance Committee

Enactment No: 0029-2021

- 43. ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 1/27/2021, **AUTHORIZING** the transfer of the sum of \$2,297,961 within the General Fund from and to various operating budget accounts for the purpose of providing funds to reconcile Early Retirement [202100274](#)

Incentive Program (ERIP) savings and to provide for the ongoing needs of City departments in accordance with the attached Schedule of Transfer.

Referred to Budget & Finance Committee
Enactment No: 0030-2021

CLERK OF COUNCIL

- 44. REGISTRATION**, submitted by the Clerk of Council from Legislative Agent Katherine Ott Zehnder, Civil Engineer, 28 Liberty Ship WAY, Suite 2815, Sausalito, CA 94965. [202100277](#)

Filed

- 45. REGISTRATION**, submitted by the Clerk of Council from Legislative Agent Ted Heckmann, Senior Director, Regulatory & Government Affairs, 221 East Fourth Street, Suite 103-1080, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. [202100288](#)

Filed

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 46. REPORT**, dated 1/21/2021, submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, regarding Finance and Budget Monitoring Report for the Period Ending November 30, 2020. [202100169](#)

Approved & Filed

- 47. ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 1/21/2021, **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept a donation totaling \$600,000 from the Cincinnati Park Board Commissioner's Fund for the purpose of purchasing horticultural supplies, executing maintenance contracts, providing salary reimbursements, reimbursing the City for Inwood Park playground equipment, providing for Krohn Conservatory's gift shop inventory, and providing resources for other vital costs associated with running the City's parks; and **AUTHORIZING** the Finance Director to deposit the funds into Parks Private Endowment and Donations Fund 430. [202100180](#)

Passed Emergency

Yes: Vice Mayor Smitherman
Councilmember Goodin
Councilmember Kearney
Councilmember Keating
Councilmember Landsman
Councilmember Mann
President Pro Tem Seelbach
Councilmember Young

Absent: Councilmember Sundermann
Enactment No: 0024-2021

Emergency clause to remain

Yes: Vice Mayor Smitherman
Councilmember Goodin
Councilmember Kearney
Councilmember Keating
Councilmember Landsman
Councilmember Mann
President Pro Tem Seelbach
Councilmember Young

Absent: Councilmember Sundermann
Enactment No: 0024-2021

Suspension of the three readings

Yes: Vice Mayor Smitherman
Councilmember Goodin
Councilmember Kearney
Councilmember Keating
Councilmember Landsman
Councilmember Mann
President Pro Tem Seelbach
Councilmember Young

Absent: Councilmember Sundermann
Enactment No: 0024-2021

- 48. ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager, on 1/25/2021, **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept the sum of up to \$9,072,046 from the United States Department of Treasury as provided by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act for the purpose of providing resources for an Emergency Rental Assistance program to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and further **AUTHORIZING** the Finance Director to deposit the funds in Fund 473, "COVID-19" revenue account no. 473x8543.

[202100271](#)

Passed Emergency

Yes: Vice Mayor Smitherman
Councilmember Goodin
Councilmember Kearney
Councilmember Keating
Councilmember Landsman
Councilmember Mann
President Pro Tem Seelbach
Councilmember Young

Absent: Councilmember Sundermann
Enactment No: 0025-2021

Emergency clause to remain

Yes: Vice Mayor Smitherman
Councilmember Goodin
Councilmember Kearney
Councilmember Keating
Councilmember Landsman
Councilmember Mann
President Pro Tem Seelbach
Councilmember Young

Absent: Councilmember Sundermann
Enactment No: 0025-2021

Suspension of the three readings

Yes: Vice Mayor Smitherman
Councilmember Goodin
Councilmember Kearney
Councilmember Keating
Councilmember Landsman
Councilmember Mann
President Pro Tem Seelbach
Councilmember Young

Absent: Councilmember Sundermann
Enactment No: 0025-2021

No announcements at this time

Council adjourned at 2:13 P.M.