

March 1, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

202300712

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – DCED: Findlay Recreation Area Improvements – TIF

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

ESTABLISHING capital improvement program project account no. 980x164x231643, “Findlay Recreation Area Improvements - TIF,” for the purpose of providing resources for the design and construction of new state-of-the-art recreation permanent improvements, including, but not limited to, acquiring, improving, and equipping parks, parkways, playgrounds, and recreation centers, in and around Findlay Park in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood, and for the design and construction of permanent improvements to the streetscape along Vine Street between Liberty Street and the intersection of Findlay and McMicken Streets; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of the sum of \$1,698,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Downtown/OTR East Equivalent Fund 483 to newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x164x231643, “Findlay Recreation Area Improvements - TIF,” for the purpose of providing resources for the design and construction of new state-of-the-art recreation permanent improvements, including, but not limited to, acquiring, improving, and equipping parks, parkways, playgrounds, and recreation centers, in and around Findlay Park in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood and for the design and construction of permanent improvements to the streetscape along Vine Street between Liberty Street and the intersection of Findlay and McMicken Streets; **DECLARING** expenditures from capital improvement program project account no. 980x164x231643, “Findlay Recreation Area Improvements - TIF,” to be for a public purpose; and **AMENDING** Ordinance 342-2020 to allow for the reimbursement of \$50,000 to the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation for an advance of Phase I design services.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance will authorize the establishment of new capital improvement program project account no. 980x164x231643, “Findlay Recreation Area Improvements - TIF,” for the purpose of providing resources for the design and construction of new state-of-the-art recreation permanent improvements, including but not limited to, acquiring, improving, and equipping parks, parkways, playgrounds and recreation centers, in and around Findlay Park in the Over-the-Rhine (OTR) neighborhood, and for the design and construction of permanent improvements to the streetscape along Vine Street between Liberty Street and the intersection of Findlay and McMicken Streets. Furthermore, this Emergency Ordinance authorizes the transfer and appropriation of \$1,698,000 from the

unappropriated surplus of the Downtown/OTR East Equivalent Fund 483 to newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x164x231643, "Findlay Recreation Area Improvements - TIF".

Additionally, this Emergency Ordinance declares expenditures from newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x164x231643, "Findlay Recreation Area Improvements - TIF," to be for a public purpose and amends Ordinance No. 0342-2020 to allow for the reimbursement of \$50,000 to the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC) for an advance of Phase I design services.

Improvements to Findlay Park are in accordance with the "Live" goal to "[b]uild a robust public life," as well as the strategy to "[d]evelop and maintain inviting and engaging public spaces to encourage social interaction between different types of people," as described on pages 147-152 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The Over-the-Rhine Community Council, Downtown Residents Council, and Mt. Auburn Community Council have all provided letters of support for the funding appropriation. The City Administration hosted a Community Engagement Meeting on November 21, 2022 of which a summary can be found here:

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/community-engagement-meetings1/past-community-engagement-meetings/public-engagement-session-for-the-findlay-community-and-recreation-center1/>

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to continue the design of the Findlay Park area recreation improvements and the Vine Street streetscape improvements so that community outreach, design, and construction may continue as quickly as possible.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director
Karen Alder, Finance Director



Attachment

