

August 1, 2022

To: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

From: John P. Curp, Interim City Manager

202201603

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – DCED: Transfer of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Neighborhood Activation Program Funding to the Neighborhood Business District Support Grant Program

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the transfer and return to source of the sum of \$625,000 from American Rescue Plan grant project account no. 469x101xARP017, “Neighborhood Activation Fund,” to the unappropriated surplus of Local Fiscal Recovery Fund 469; and **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of the sum of \$625,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Local Fiscal Recovery Fund 469 to existing American Rescue Plan grant project account no. 469x101xARP028, “Neighborhood Business District Support Grants,” for the purpose of providing additional resources for a second round of direct awards to small businesses and infrastructure projects assisting small businesses in response to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance will authorize the transfer of \$625,000 from American Rescue Plan grant project account no. 469x101xARP017, “Neighborhood Activation Fund,” to the unappropriated surplus of Local Fiscal Recovery Fund 469. This Emergency Ordinance would further authorize the transfer and appropriation of the sum of \$625,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Local Fiscal Recovery Fund 469 to existing American Rescue Plan grant project account no. 469x101xARP028, “Neighborhood Business District Support Grants,” for the purpose of providing additional resources for a second round of direct awards to small businesses and infrastructure projects assisting small businesses in response to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Neighborhood Activation Fund provided awards for neighborhood activation and events in public spaces throughout the City. There is \$625,000 of remaining resources in the “Neighborhood Activation Fund” ARP grant project account. There are no eligible Neighborhood Activation projects remaining in queue. Thus, funds can be reallocated to the “Neighborhood Business District Support Grants” ARP grant project account to better meet the demand for that program. The Neighborhood Business District Support Grants (NBDSG) program provides direct awards to small businesses and infrastructure projects assisting small businesses in response to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In partnership with Homebase Cincinnati, the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) conducted two rounds of grant funding. The City was able to fund just under \$1,000,000 of the \$4,000,000 requested by NBDSG applicants in the first round of NBDSG funding, and the second round of NBDSG funding attracted 137 applications.

The City's NBDSG program is in accordance with the "Compete" goal to "[c]ultivate our position as the most vibrant and economically healthiest part of our region," and strategy to "[t]arget investment to geographic areas where there is already economic activity," as described on pages 114-117 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to proceed with the second round of Neighborhood Business District Support Grant program awards to provide assistance as soon as possible to small businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

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



Attachment