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Betsy Sundermann
Cincinnati City Councilmember

August 31, 2021

MOTION

WE MOVE the Administration work with Fire Chief Michael Washington and his leadership team to evaluate the proper sworn strength for staffing the Cincinnati Fire Department.

WE FURTHER MOVE that if the evaluation determines a shortage exists, the Administration should immediately put in place future funding plans to recruit and train new or lateral members to get the CFD to its proper sworn strength to ensure the adequate safety of the citizens of Cincinnati.


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STATEMENT

With service demand increasing at roughly 2.3 percent each year, and the absence of a sworn strength evaluation in many years, the citizens of Cincinnati need the confidence that we have the proper number of fire fighters to serve the needs of the City.

In order to recalculate the proper sworn strength, the Cincinnati Fire Department (CFD) should consider the following factors:

1. Review daily staffing trends, how many members are off on various leaves, vacation, holiday, compensatory leave, sick with pay, military leaves, etc.
2. Evaluate the current average age of the fire department, which is currently in the 40's.
3. Consider the actual positions that need to be filled daily. Currently, overtime has almost doubled in the recent past due to staffing shortages.
4. If the above evaluation determines that the CFD is experiencing a staffing shortage, with permission of the City Manager's office, the CFD Chief and his Chief Financial Officer make an official request to increase the sworn strength.
5. With the request, the Budget Office conducts an audit to determine the cost of the increase, which then goes through the annual budget process.
6. The City Manager then incorporates the recommendations for the increase into the next recommended budget for Mayoral and Council approval or denial.

Calendar
DM

09/20/08

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CLERK OF COUNCIL