

February 24, 2022

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: John P. Curp, Interim City Manager **202200483**

Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – Water Research Foundation Agreement**

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Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

**AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Greater Cincinnati Water Works with the Water Research Foundation for the purpose of co-funding, along with five other water utilities, a collaborative research project known as “Identifying Service Line Materials without Excavation Distinguishing LSLs from Non-LSLs.”

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Water Research Foundation (WRF) to provide co-funding, along with five other water utilities, to support a collaborative research project known as “Identifying Service Line Materials without Excavation Distinguishing LSLs from Non-LSLs”.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency recently updated the standards in the Lead and Copper Rule to require water utilities such as the City of Cincinnati’s Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) to develop a plan for replacement of a minimum of 3.5% of all lead service lines (LSLs) each year. In order to properly plan for the systematic removal of lead lines, it is essential to be able to determine whether a property has a lead water service line. GCWW currently relies on historic records, excavation of the pipe, and checking inside the building to identify the underground service line material, which in some cases may not identify lead pipe in a portion of the service line that is not visible at the excavation site.

WRF is willing to contribute \$100,000 from its Tailored Collaboration Program to co-fund a collaborative research project led by Cornwell Engineering Group known as “Identifying Service Line Materials without Excavation Distinguishing LSLs from Non-LSLs” that aims to conduct proof of concept testing on three innovative, no-dig detection platforms for underground water service line material and compare them to traditional means of material identification. The completion of the research will allow GCWW and the water industry to identify the best method to locate lead service lines for removal, ideally without digging or entering the home.

The *Letter of Agreement for Co-Funding* between the City and WRF attached as Exhibit A hereto outlines the responsibilities and rights of WRF and the City in connection with the collaborative research project. GCWW is willing to contribute \$16,000 in funding and up to \$12,000 in in-kind on-site testing participation for the project, which will be matched by similar co-funding and in-kind participation from DC Water, Aquarion Water, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PSWA), American Water, and Aqua America (Pennsylvania). GCWW's contribution can be made from their existing FY 2022 appropriation. The co-funding contribution from utilities of \$100,000, combined with WRF co-funding adds up to a total of \$200,000 plus additional on-site research services for the project.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director  
Verna Arnette, GCWW Deputy Director