

September 18, 2024

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

202402058

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – GCWW: Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) Funding for Replacement of Public and Private Lead Service Lines

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager or her designee to apply for, accept, and appropriate Water Supply Revolving Loan Account loan funding in the amount of up to \$15,000,000, comprised of \$7,950,000 in principal forgiveness and \$7,050,000 in zero-interest loan funding, from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Water Development Authority to assist with the cost of replacing all public and private lead service lines within the utility’s service area; and **AUTHORIZING** the Finance Director to receive and deposit loan funds into Fund Numbers 756x8569, 756x8527, 312x8569, and 312x8527.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) loan funding in the amount of up to \$15,000,000, comprised of \$7,950,000 in principal forgiveness and \$7,050,000 in zero-interest loan funding, from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) for the purpose of assisting with the cost of replacing public and private lead service lines. This Emergency Ordinance further authorizes the Finance Director to receive and deposit loan funds into revenue account nos. 756x8569, 756x8527, 312x8569, and 312x8527.

The Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) currently operates a program that aims to replace all public and private lead service lines within the utility’s service area to reduce the risk of lead in water. This funding will reimburse costs incurred to replace public and private lead service lines as part of GCWW’s lead line replacement program, which may include: McMillan/Taft/Calhoun; Burch/East Hill/Shaw; Erie Burch; Branch only – Beech/Eighth; Branch only – Jonathan/Ruth; MLK/Bishop/Lakewood; Southern/Hawthorne; Fire Flow 23; McHenry/Sunshine/Wooster; Baker/Bedford/Beechcrest; Lyon/Moerlein/Wheeler; Monastery/St. Gregory – Mt Adams; and Budd Street. To meet the loan application deadline of September 1, 2024, the City has applied for the loan funding, but no loan funds will be accepted without approval by the City Council.

Assisting with the cost of public and private lead service line replacement projects is in accordance with the “Sustain” goal to “[b]ecome a healthier Cincinnati” and strategy to “[c]reate a healthy environment and reduce energy consumption” as described on pages 181-186 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to apply for and obtain loan funding approval in compliance with loan application deadlines.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

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



Attachment