

April 10, 2024

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

202401070

Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – CRC: Hamilton County Public Wi-Fi Grant**

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant of up to \$191,362 from the Hamilton County Digital Divide Public Wi-Fi grant program (ALN 21.027) to install public Wi-Fi infrastructure at various Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) park locations; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the grant funds into Recreation Federal Grant Projects Fund 324x8551.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance would authorize the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant of up to \$191,362 from the Hamilton County Digital Divide Public Wi-Fi grant program to install public Wi-Fi infrastructure at various Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) park locations. Additionally, the Emergency Ordinance authorizes the Director of Finance to deposit the grant funds into Recreation Federal Grant Projects Fund revenue account no. 324x8551.

Broadband infrastructure has been shown to be critical for work, education, health care and civic participation. Installation of broadband infrastructure in CRC park locations will expand the public's access to broadband internet service.

Acceptance of this grant requires no matching funds. There are no additional FTEs/full time equivalents associated with this grant. The City already applied for the grant, but no grant funds will be accepted without approval by the City Council.

Providing resources for the installation of public Wi-Fi infrastructure at ten CRC park locations is in accordance with the "Live" goal to "[b]uild a robust public life" and strategy to "[d]evelop and maintain inviting and engaging public spaces to encourage social interaction between different types of people" as described on pages 149-151 of Plan Cincinnati.

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept grant resources in a timely manner.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

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

Attachment

