

Date: October 30, 2024

To: Mayor and Members of City Council
From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager
Subject: Ordinance – Permit Requirements for Private Streets and Drives

Attached is an emergency ordinance captioned as follows:

MODIFYING Chapter 721, “Streets and Sidewalks, Establishment and Maintenance,” of the Cincinnati Municipal Code by AMENDING Sections 721-1-D, “Department,” 721-1-D1, “Director,” 721-23, “Undedicated Streets, Improvements Forbidden,” 721-47, “Undedicated Streets, Construction Under Public Supervision,” 721-49, “Fund for Inspection of Streets and Sewers Privately Constructed,” 721-51, “Undedicated Streets; Review of Engineering Details for Supervised Construction,” 721-53, “Rules and Schedules of Prices,” and 721-55, “Fund for Reviewing Engineering Details for Construction of Undedicated Streets,” to establish permit requirements for the construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement of private streets and drives in the City of Cincinnati.

The City of Cincinnati administration is seeking to modify the Cincinnati Municipal Code (CMC) Chapter 721, “Streets and Sidewalks, Establishment and Maintenance” to establish permit requirements for the construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement of private streets and drives in the City of Cincinnati.

Private streets and driveways are an option for property owners when developing property to provide access to buildings and structures. Over time, due to substandard construction and neglect by property owners, managers, and tenants, private streets and driveways may deteriorate, resulting in substandard or hazardous conditions that adversely affect the ability of the police, fire, and public services departments from accessing buildings adjacent to private streets and driveways. The inability of City departments to use and access properties and buildings adjacent to private streets and driveways creates a risk to the health and safety of citizens of Cincinnati by limiting response times and prohibiting the collection of trash and refuse. As a result, the City risks spending public dollars to remedy issues with private streets and driveways which are in disrepair and cause damage to City vehicles. Requiring public supervision of the construction and maintenance of private streets will ensure compliance with minimum standards, prevent decay, and ensure that persons who live along private streets are provided access to police, fire, emergency medical, and public services.

The Administration recommends passage of the attached ordinance.

cc: John S. Brazina, Director, Transportation and Engineering