

202501272



**Meeka D. Owens**  
Cincinnati City Councilmember

**The Road Ahead**

Dear Colleagues,

The Cincinnati Futures Commission provides guidance that empowers our municipal government to create conditions that ensure our city's financial health. Created from a shared commitment to equity, sustainability, innovation, and community, the Commission represented a dynamic partnership between civic needs and corporate partnership.

This letter stands as a commitment to address the recommendations of the Futures Commission over the course of the FY26/27 budget. For citizens who may have worries about these recommendations, let me start with this, in this next budget every city department has experienced a 2 percent cut in their budgets. While we have taken great steps to address our city's infrastructure with the sale of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad, we need to do more as our anticipated deficits grow.

We are at a tipping point. When the Futures Commission was completed, Federal resources were not under attack, Statehouse policies weren't trying to eliminate our tax revenues, we are in a different era of fiscal policy.

That is why we must take control of the funding that the state and the federal government have no say over, our municipal general fund. This supplies critical services like Public Safety, Parks and Recreation, the Metropolitan Sewer system, and our Water Works. Now more than ever it is critical that Cincinnati is capable of making decisions with our money that puts Cincinnatians first.

Cincinnati is born from a rich history, from the immigrant communities in Over-The-Rhine, the lost neighborhood of Kenyon Barr, or the Gaslight streets in Clifton, we are constantly reminded of our past. What the members of this commission gave us is a path forward to acknowledge our past and work for the future. I am proud to stand as a critical partner who looks to these recommendations to lay out a future that will make our city greater, stronger, and better.

Signed,

  
Councilmember Meeka D. Owens