

December 14, 2020

**To:** Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

**From:** Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager *CB for PBM 202002199*

**Subject:** **Emergency Ordinance – Reconciliation of Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Uses and Funds for Duke Energy Convention Center**

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Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

**AUTHORIZING** the acceptance of the sum of up to \$1,000,000 from the Hamilton County, Ohio Coronavirus Relief Fund on behalf of the Duke Energy Convention Center for COVID-19 related expenses; **AUTHORIZING** the Finance Director to deposit the funds in Fund 103 “Convention Center”; **AUTHORIZING** the appropriation of the sum of \$1,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Convention Center Fund 103 to the Convention Center Fund non-personnel operating budget account no. 103x243x7300 for the purpose of providing reimbursement of or resources for certain non-personnel expenditures as set forth in the attached Attachment A; **AUTHORIZING** the acceptance of the sum of \$302,724.10 from the Hamilton County, Ohio Coronavirus Relief Fund redistribution process for the purpose of providing reimbursement of or resources for certain non-personnel expenditures related to COVID-19 response; **AUTHORIZING** the Finance Director to deposit the funds in Fund 473 “COVID-19”; **AUTHORIZING** the appropriation of the sum of \$302,724.10 from the unappropriated surplus of COVID-19 Fund 473 to the COVID-19 Fund 473 City Manager’s Office non-personnel operating budget account no. 473x101x7200 for the purpose of providing reimbursement of or resources for certain non-personnel expenditures in the Department of Finance Division of Risk Management and the Cincinnati Health Department for COVID-19 response according to the amounts set forth in Attachment B; **AUTHORIZING** the re-allocation of Coronavirus Relief Fund funding designated for various activities as contained in Ordinance No. 0356-2020 based on actual expenses for the various activities set forth in Attachment B; **AUTHORIZING** the acceptance of the sum of \$621,787.66 from the Hamilton County, Ohio Coronavirus Relief Fund for expenses related to operation of the Over-the-Rhine Recreation Center as a COVID-19 isolation facility for persons experiencing homelessness; **AUTHORIZING** the Finance Director to deposit the funds in Fund 473 “COVID-19”; **AUTHORIZING** the appropriation of the sum of \$565,047.15 from the unappropriated surplus of COVID-19 Fund 473 to the COVID-19 Fund 473 City Manager’s Office personnel operating budget account no. 473x101x7100

for the purpose of providing reimbursement of or resources for certain personnel expenditures incurred to operate the Over-the-Rhine Recreation Center as a COVID-19 isolation facility for persons experiencing homelessness; AUTHORIZING the appropriation of the sum of \$56,740.51 from the unappropriated surplus of COVID-19 Fund 473 to the COVID-19 Fund 473 City Manager's Office non-personnel operating budget account no. 473x101x7200 for the purpose of providing reimbursement of or resources for certain non-personnel expenditures incurred to operate the Over-the-Rhine Recreation Center as a COVID-19 isolation facility for persons experiencing homelessness.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to accept and appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000 on behalf of the Duke Energy Convention Center which has received funding from the State of Ohio and Hamilton County under the Coronavirus Relief Fund ("CRF"), established by the United States Department of the Treasury pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"). These funds will provide for reimbursement of or resources for certain non-personnel expenditures as set forth in Attachment A.

This Emergency Ordinance also accepts additional CRF funds from Hamilton County, Ohio from the redistribution of returned funds under the CARES Act in the amount of \$302,724.10 which will provide reimbursement of or resources for certain non-personnel expenditures in the Department of Finance Division of Risk Management and the Cincinnati Health Department for COVID-19 response according to the amounts set forth in Attachment B.

Additionally, this Emergency Ordinance will accept CRF funds as reimbursement for such incurred costs and to otherwise coordinate with Hamilton County, Ohio on strategic deployment of available resources to assist persons experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the City has incurred at least \$621,787.66 in expenses in establishing and operating the Over-The-Rhine Recreation Center as a COVID-19 isolation facility for persons experiencing homelessness, and Hamilton County, Ohio has agreed to reimburse the City for those expenses from available CRF dollars received by Hamilton County under the CARES Act.

Ordinance No. 0356-2020 authorized the appropriation of funds in COVID-19 Fund 473 for the purpose of providing reimbursement of or resources for certain non-personnel expenditures including \$250,000 for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission for WIFI upgrades for virtual learning. Since the passage of that Emergency Ordinance, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission has received a Hamilton County CARES Expanding Free Public Wi-Fi Program grant in the amount of \$100,000 as authorized by Ordinance No. 0375-2020. This reduces the amount of CRF funding needed for this project by that amount.

Ordinance No. 0356-2020 authorized the appropriation of funds in COVID-19 Fund 473 for the purpose of providing reimbursement of or resources for certain personnel

expenditures including \$300,000 for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission for the virtual learning subsidy, but the actual expenses for the virtual learning subsidy were \$224,773.94 thus reducing the amount of CRF funding needed for this project by \$75,226.06.

Ordinance No. 0356-2020 authorized the appropriation of funds in COVID-19 Fund 473 for the purpose of providing funds for the City's unemployment expenses in the fourth quarter of FY 2020, but the State of Ohio has since rebated the City a portion of its unemployment expenses thus reducing the amount of CRF funding needed for this expense by \$887,698.24.

Because of these changes, this Emergency Ordinance realigns the CRF funding allocations set forth in Ordinance No. 0356-2020 as necessary to reconcile actual expenses for COVID-19 related expenses. That reallocation will provide additional funding to the Cincinnati Health Department for non-personnel expenses related to testing and contract tracing and funding will be reallocated to the Cincinnati Retirement System (CRS) for non-personnel actuarial expenses and facility rental charges for retirement sessions related to the Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP). The reallocations are according to the amounts set forth in Attachment B.

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need the immediate need to accomplish the authorized COVID-19 related reimbursements and expenditures before the December 30, 2020 deadline required by the CARES Act.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Christopher A. Bigham, Assistant City Manager  
Karen Alder, Finance Director

Attachment