

202100592

City of Cincinnati



Wendell Young  
Councilman

February 3, 2021

**Motion**

WE MOVE: that in addition to this request received from the Administration

WE MOVE: the undersigned, move that the City Solicitor issue a legal opinion addressing the following question:

"Under the City Charter, does the Mayor have legal authority to negotiate or direct any development contracts with Developers who want to do business with the City."

**STATEMENT**

Recently, the F.B.I. and the U.S. Attorney's office filed three indictments against sitting members of our Council. The U.S. Attorney's Office stated emphatically that there's a cultural corruption within our city government. Recently, we have received an open letter to Mayor Cranley and City Manager Paula Boggs-Muething from a citizen from OTR, Danny Klinger stating inter alia that the Mayor is involved with negotiating development deals. For many of us, this is not the first time that we've heard the Mayor is involved with negotiating development deals.

It is a long-standing principle that our City Manager is solely responsible for the negotiations of development contracts. Under our Charter, this responsibility is a safeguard so that neither the Mayor nor members of City Council are able to influence the negotiations of development contracts but allowing our City Manager to perform his role without any political influence.

Given the most recent indictments and what appears to be widespread belief among many of our citizens that corruption exist beyond the indicted councilmembers, we should take every step to preserve the authority of the City Manager without the Mayor or members of City Council to ensure and restore faith in the actions of the government.

Councilmember Wendell Young

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