

## EMERGENCY

JWF

- 2026

**MODIFYING** the provisions of Article XIV, “Public Recreation Commission,” of the Administrative Code of the City of Cincinnati by **ORDAINING** new Sections 7, “Department of Recreation,” and 8, “Duties of Director of Recreation”; **AMENDING** the Title and Sections 1, “Member,” 3, “Powers,” and 4, “Concession Privileges; Admission Fees”; and **REPEALING** Sections 5, “Director of Recreation,” and 6, “Severance,” to establish the Department of Recreation and clarify the respective authorities and responsibilities of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and the City Manager.

WHEREAS, Section 14 of Article VII of the Charter of the City of Cincinnati requires that there be a public recreation commission (the “Cincinnati Recreation Commission”); and

WHEREAS, while Council is empowered to fix the terms of the commission’s members and the powers and duties of the commission, the Charter requires that all funds obtained from levies for recreational purposes, appropriated by other public bodies, or donated for such purposes to the City or the public recreation commission, shall be expended by the Cincinnati Recreation Commission; and

WHEREAS, Section 3 of Article IV of the Charter states the City Manager shall have the powers conferred by law upon boards of control and, except as the Charter otherwise provides, all other executive and administrative powers conferred by the laws of the state upon any municipal official shall be exercised by the City Manager or City Manager’s designee; and

WHEREAS, the City’s recreation programs, facilities, and services are critical components of public health, youth development, neighborhood vitality, and overall community well-being; and

WHEREAS, clarifying the administrative responsibilities of the City Manager with respect to the City’s recreation programming and operations by establishing a Department of Recreation will ensure proper oversight of day-to-day operations, personnel administration, budgeting, procurement, and implementation of policies consistent with other City departments in the executive and administrative service; and

WHEREAS, updating the Administrative Code is necessary to delineate the respective expenditure authority of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and the administrative and operational authority of the City Manager, consistent with the Charter; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio, with three-fourths of its members concurring:

Section 1. That new Sections 7, “Department of Recreation,” and 8, “Duties of Director of Recreation,” of Article XIV, “Public Recreation Commission,” of the Administrative Code of the City of Cincinnati are ordained as follows:

**Sec. 7. Department of Recreation.**

There is hereby established a department of recreation, to be administered by a director of recreation, appointed by and subject to the control and supervision of the city manager.

**Sec. 8. Duties of Director of Recreation.**

The director of recreation shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the department, including: (i) arranging for the use and maintenance of playgrounds, athletic fields, assembly halls, or other quarters needed for community or recreational work; (ii) directing the preparation of programs of activities, including festivals, pageants, tournaments, and contests; (iii) overseeing the organization of clubs, teams, leagues, and other groups; (iv) devising publicity for recreational programs; (v) conferring and negotiating with park and school board officials relative to the coordination of recreational opportunities; (vi) preparing reports and making recommendations to the city manager; (vii) administering cultural activities including the city’s allocation for the arts; and (viii) performing such other duties as may be required by the city manager or by ordinance of council.

Section 2. That the Title and Sections 1, “Member,” 3, “Powers,” and 4, “Concession Privileges; Admission Fees,” of Article XIV, “Public Recreation Commission,” of the Administrative Code of the City of Cincinnati are amended as follows:

**ARTICLE XIV. PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION.**

**Sec. 1. Members of the Commission.**

Members of the public recreation commission shall have the qualifications of electors of the City of Cincinnati, and shall as the existing terms expire be appointed for terms of five years; but whenever a member representing the board of education or the board of park commissioners shall cease to be a member of said board, the person’s membership on the public recreation commission shall likewise cease, and the respective board shall appoint a successor for the unexpired term.

**Sec. 3. Powers of the Commission and of the City Manager.**

The public recreation commission shall have power and authority to expend resources to equip, operate, supervise, and maintain all existing public playgrounds, athletic fields, swimming pools, golf courses, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, indoor recreation centers, municipal camps, and other recreational facilities on or in any public grounds or buildings, either within or without the City of Cincinnati, owned by the city; or on or in any public grounds or buildings hereafter acquired, which the city may from time to time authorize, offer, designate, or set apart for such use; and it shall further have power, with the consent of the board of education of the city school district of the City of Cincinnati, to expend resources to organize and conduct play and recreational activities on grounds and in buildings under the control of said board of education, provided that nothing in this section shall be construed to abridge the powers of said board of education to refuse the use of any of its grounds or buildings; and it shall have power and authority to expend resources to equip, operate, supervise and maintain such privately owned lands or buildings whose use for public recreational purposes may be temporarily granted by the owners.

The city manager shall be responsible for the execution of all contracts for the expenditure of recreation resources, pursuant to the public recreation commission’s authorization to expend such resources, for recreational purposes.

**Sec. 4. Concession Privileges; Admission Fees.**

The public recreation commission shall have the power and authority to grant concession privileges at the various grounds and other places ~~under the control of said commission~~ used for recreation purposes, where games, entertainments, and recreational affairs are held and charge a fee therefor, and to charge a nominal fee for admission to such activities as it may deem desirable and in furtherance of recreational affairs.

Section 3. That existing Sections 5, “Director of Recreation,” and 6, “Severance,” of Article XIV, “Public Recreation Commission,” of the Administrative Code of the City of Cincinnati are repealed.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to establish the Department of Recreation and clarify the respective authorities and responsibilities of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and the City Manager to ensure efficient operation and execution of the City’s recreation programming and operations.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

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Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

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Deletions are indicated by strikethrough; additions are indicated by underline.