



Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
Councilmember

April 5, 2021

MOTION

WE MOVE that City Council allocate \$350,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act to the non-profit organization, The Mark, created by to assist with the stabilization and purchase of St. Mark Church, 3500 Montgomery Rd. in Evanston.

STATEMENT

The Mark is a 501(c)(3) created by residents of Evanston to purchase and then transform the St. Mark Church building into a cultural, artistic, and neighborhood hub with tenant stakeholders that will attract members and clientele from throughout Greater Cincinnati.

The Mark Board of Directors has requested \$250,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act to assist with the purchase of St. Mark's Church and \$100,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act to assist with physical stabilization of the building for a total of \$350,000. The Mark has entered into a contract for \$650,000 to purchase the church. The Evanston Community Council has approved \$400,000 in Tax Increment Financing funds to go toward the purchase price.

St. Mark Church was built more than 115 years ago but has not been in use since the church's last service in 2010. The Evanston Community Council completed a 10-year plan for 2019-2029 to enhance the Evanston neighborhood. The preservation and reactivation of St. Mark is a top priority in the plan. The structure includes 35,682 square feet of activity space and will be used as a community center to benefit the neighborhood and the region.

The Mark will solicit a combination of public and private funding to assist with further renovation of the building.

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Cal Budget & Finance

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