

May 14, 2025

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

202500987

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

**Subject: Emergency Ordinance – CMO: Financial Freedom Initiative
Transfer for a Grocery Delivery Pilot Program**

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the transfer of \$250,000 from the General Fund balance sheet reserve account no. 050x3422, “Discretionary Reserve,” to the unappropriated surplus of General Fund 050, and **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of \$250,000 from the unappropriated surplus of General Fund 050 to the City Manager’s Office General Fund non-personnel operating budget account no. 050x101x7400 to provide one-time funds for a grocery delivery pilot program as a Financial Freedom Initiative.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance authorizes the transfer \$250,000 from the General Fund balance sheet reserve account no. 050x3422, “Discretionary Reserve,” to the unappropriated surplus of General Fund 050. This Emergency Ordinance also authorizes the transfer and appropriation of \$250,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the City Manager’s Office General Fund non-personnel operating budget account no. 050x101x7400 to provide one-time funds for a grocery delivery pilot program as a Financial Freedom Initiative.

In Ordinance No. 0207-2023, as part of the FY 2024 Operating Budget, the City Council transferred \$2,125,000 to balance sheet reserve account no. 050x3422, “Deferred Appropriations,” to preserve resources for Financial Freedom Initiatives for FY 2024 pending additional information to be presented to Council by the Administration on proposed uses of funds. Subsequently, Ordinance No. 0055-2024, pursuant to Council Motion #202400205 adopted on January 24, 2024, allocated \$1,875,000 of the total \$2,125,000 to the following Financial Freedom Initiatives: medical debt forgiveness (\$1,500,000) and child savings accounts (\$375,000). Ordinance No. 0374-2024, renamed balance sheet reserve account no. 050x3422, from “Deferred Appropriations” to “Discretionary Reserve.”

The remaining \$250,000 in balance sheet reserve account no. 050x3422, “Discretionary Reserve,” had been preserved for a guaranteed basic income pilot program which will now take the form of a grocery delivery pilot program which, in partnership with The Kroger Co., will provide a monthly grocery stipend for qualifying participants designed to increase the accessibility of food in order to address root causes of violence. The pilot will be executed in the Winton Hills neighborhood, as defined by the geographical boundaries of the neighborhood provided by the Winton Hills Community Council and include 200 households which will receive a one-year Kroger Boost membership, provided by The Kroger, Co., to allow for the same-day delivery of groceries and a \$100 monthly credit for twelve months.

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accomplish the authorized transfers and appropriations prior to when schools recess for summer, when low-income families are disproportionately affected by hunger without access to food nutrition programs at schools.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director
Steve Webb, Finance Director



Attachment