

Pettyjohn, Chelsey

From: Gerhardt, William on behalf of Keating, Liz
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 4:59 PM
To: Autry, Melissa
Cc: Pettyjohn, Chelsey; Harris, Reggie; Crawford, Nicole
Subject: FW: [External Email] Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's Letter of Support for Density Reform Ordinance
Attachments: Letter of Support Density Ordinance.pdf

Hello –
Could we submit the attached letter for the EGH committee on 3/14.

Thank you,
Will

From: Austin Railey III <ARailey@cincinnatiachamber.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 4:27 PM
To: ClerkOfCouncilEmail <ClerkOfCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <#COUNCIL@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Cc: Pete Metz <PMetz@cincinnatiachamber.com>
Subject: [External Email] Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's Letter of Support for Density Reform Ordinance

External Email Communication

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached official letter of support from the Cincinnati Regional Chamber of Commerce in support of the Density Reform Ordinance that will have a public hearing on March 15th, 2022. If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out.

Austin Railey III
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MANAGER
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March 11, 2022

Cincinnati City Council
801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Dear Members of Council,

I am writing to express the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's support for Item Number 20200278, the density reform ordinance that eliminates minimum land area per unit requirements in non-single family zones in the City.

This ordinance is an important first step in the broader discussion of how Cincinnati embraces growth and reforms zoning, which is why we will be recording this vote on our Growth Policy Index and will communicate the outcome of the vote and the individual votes of members of City Council to our nearly 4,000 Chamber members. At the Chamber, we are focused on creating a more connected region and fostering an environment that incentivizes economic development and growth. This ordinance helps achieve both of those goals.

Eliminating density restrictions is one way to create additional housing in the City and has a positive impact on the region's ability to provide a wide array of housing price points and unit mixes to the market.

In the Chamber's Embracing Growth report, which was cited often by members of City Council as an effective blueprint for increasing housing, we note that in Hamilton County 47% of renter households are cost burdened. We also note that the Cincinnati region is 11th out of our 14 peer cities in housing production. Our report highlights research that shows increasing the supply of housing is one of the necessary tools for meeting our housing affordability goals. Eliminating density restrictions removes one barrier to increasing the supply of housing while also reducing the per unit cost of that housing.

Cincinnati should be rightly proud of its many vibrant business districts. These districts support neighborhood-based economies and build stronger communities, and many of the business owners in these districts are women, immigrants, and minorities. Facilitating the addition of dense housing in our city's business districts, which is where this ordinance is focused, will strengthen existing small businesses and provide opportunities for new business growth.

The Chamber supports initiatives and policies that help our economy grow, increase our talent base, and provide for a more equitable community. This is your first opportunity to send a message that Cincinnati is ready to step up to the challenge of being a forward-thinking, growth-minded community. We hope that you embrace the opportunity and pass this ordinance.

If you have any questions or feedback on our position, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill P. Meyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jill" being the most prominent.

Jill P. Meyer
President and Chief Executive Officer
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber