



20240255

Meeka D. Owens
Cincinnati City Council

April 22nd, 2024

Limited Representation Pilot Program

WE MOVE that the administration prepares a report within thirty (30) days to inform Councilmembers on a Limited Representation Pilot Program in partnership with the University of Cincinnati and the Hamilton County Help Center.

WE FURTHER MOVE that this report include:

- Costs associated with the pilot.
- Partnership with community partners including but not limited to the Legal Aid Society of Southwestern Ohio.
- Statistics on how many defendants this pilot program could assist.
- What oversight looks like if there is ongoing municipal support.
- Data tracking measures that this program could take to ensure a proper reporting structure to community stakeholders.
- Ongoing strategies to expand this program to include 2L and 3L students who can supply limited legal representation with appropriate supervision.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meeka D. Owens".

Councilmember Meeka D. Owens

STATEMENT

Eviction proceedings disproportionately go in favor of the housing provider. Over 90% of the evictions proceedings in Hamilton County go in favor of the housing provider, while the tenant generally will stand alone through these legal proceedings.

This program aims to provide limited legal counsel to those who have zero legal counsel. This initiative will significantly reduce the number of tenants that stand alone during these proceedings. Any landlord that is a separate business entity (such as an LLC) is required by law to have legal counsel in eviction court. Business entities make up the vast majority of eviction filers in Hamilton County. Conversely, tenants have limited legal counsel resources in Cincinnati.

Cincinnati has made large strides to make sure they are not a part of that majority. Since the passage of Access to Counsel members of the Cincinnati community are being supplied resources to stay in their homes. A limited representation program would expand the work reduce the impact of eviction, to keep families in their homes, and stabilize our housing ecosystem.