

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

AEP

EESW

An Ordinance No. 94

- 2026

**MODIFYING** Article II of the Administrative Code of the City of Cincinnati by **ORDAINING** new Section 27, "Office of Strategic Growth," **AMENDING** Section 11, "Assistant and Acting City Manager, and **REPEALING** Section 24, "Office of Opportunity"; **ORDAINING** new Article XXIV, "Department of Opportunity and Resident Services," of the Administrative Code; and **REPEALING** Article XXIV, "Department of Community and Economic Development," of the Administrative Code.

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Futures Commission recommended that the City create an Office of Strategic Growth to improve service delivery to better encourage development in Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, on February 4, 2026, Council unanimously passed Council Motion No. 202600232, directing the City Administration to immediately commence the Office of Strategic Growth; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance will amend the Administrative Code to adjust the City's administrative structure to accomplish that goal; and

WHEREAS, the City also desires to establish a new Department of Opportunity and Resident Services that will provide services to residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance will also amend the Administrative Code to provide flexibility in setting the responsibilities of Assistant City Managers; and

WHEREAS, the restructuring will allow for more streamlined service delivery to Cincinnati residents and businesses, and will create operational efficiencies; 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 Section 27 of Article II of the Administrative Code is ordained to read as follows:

**Sec. 27. Office of Strategic Growth.**

There is hereby established within the office of the city manager an office of strategic growth. The office shall have such staff as is necessary to perform the responsibilities of the office. The office of strategic growth staff shall be appointed by and under the supervision of the city manager.

The office of strategic growth shall be responsible for ensuring efficient development processes within city operations and expediting and facilitating economic development projects on behalf of the city including the following: deployment of housing and economic development tax incentives and capital investments; facilitation of real estate transactions, project entitlements, and permitting from the city for such projects; job creation and retention activities; advocacy for projects and policies that enhance housing and economic growth; and such other duties as may be assigned by the city manager.

Section 2. That new Article XXIV, "Department of Opportunity and Resident Services," is ordained to read as follows:

**Article XXIV. DEPARTMENT OF OPPORTUNITY AND RESIDENT SERVICES**

**Sec. 1. Department of Opportunity and Resident Services.**

There is hereby established a department of opportunity and resident services to be administered by a director of opportunity and resident services. The department of opportunity and resident services shall be responsible for implementing programming to foster economic opportunity empowerment for city residents, with a focus on providing housing, workforce development, small business support, and human services to homeowners, tenants, small business owners, or other residents in need.

**Sec. 2. Duties of Director of Opportunity and Resident Services.**

The director of opportunity and resident services shall be appointed by and under the supervision of the city manager. The director of opportunity and resident services shall supervise the department of opportunity and resident services and perform such other duties as may be requested by the city manager.

Section 3. That Section 11, "Assistant and Acting City Manager," of Article II, "City Manager," of the Administrative Code, is amended as follows:

**Sec. 11. Assistant and Acting City Manager**

The city manager shall appoint one or more assistant city managers. The city manager shall maintain discretion on all assignments to assistant city managers, ~~and shall make such assignments to ensure adequate resources are committed to the following functions:~~

- ~~1. Public Services and Enterprise Operations — Leadership, oversight, and coordination of city operations focused on delivering public services to city residents and of enterprise operations.~~
- ~~2. Budget, Finance, and Development — Leadership, oversight, and coordination of city finance, budgeting, and development functions.~~

~~3. Constituent Affairs and Council Services — Leadership, oversight, and coordination of intake, processing, and resolution of constituent inquiries regarding city operations and requests or inquiries from members of council.~~

The assistant city managers shall perform such other duties of the office as may be assigned at any time by the city manager.

The city manager shall designate one or more assistant city managers to perform the duties and exercise the authority of the city manager when the city manager is absent, disabled, or otherwise unavailable to serve. In the event that the city manager is absent, disabled, or otherwise unavailable to serve, then such designated assistant city manager shall be fully authorized to act on behalf of the city manager and to perform all duties of the office as needed.

Should the city manager and the designated assistant city manager be absent, disabled, or otherwise unavailable to serve, the duties and authority of the office of city manager shall be performed and exercised by another assistant city manager or a department director designated in accordance with a line of succession which the city manager shall file in writing with the clerk of council. Such designation may be amended at any time by the city manager.

The performance of the duties and exercise of the authority of the office of city manager shall also be in accord with this section during a vacancy in the office unless otherwise provided by the city council.

For purposes of this section, and without limiting the general meaning of the term, “disabled” shall include vacancy in office.

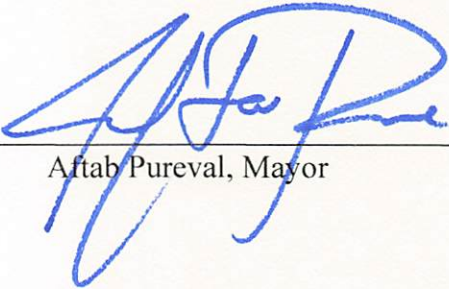
Section 4. That Section 24, “Office of Opportunity,” of Article II, “City Manager,” and Article XXIV, “Department of Community and Economic Development,” of the Administrative Code are repealed.

Section 5. That the proper City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and proper to carry out the terms of Sections 1 through 4 hereof.

Section 6. That the City Manager is authorized to assign any function currently performed by the Director of the Department of Community and Economic Development to the new Office of Strategic Growth or Department of Opportunity and Resident Services, notwithstanding any conflicting provisions of the Cincinnati Municipal Code.

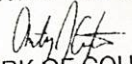
Section 7. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to establish the Office of Strategic Growth and the Department of Opportunity and Resident Services to streamline service delivery within the City.

Passed: April 1, 2026

  
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest:   
Clerk

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

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ORDINANCE NO 94-2024  
WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CITY BULLETIN  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER ON 4/12/2024  
  
CLERK OF COUNCIL