

June 11, 2025

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

202501197

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – GCWW: US EPA Community Grant for Lead Service Line Replacement

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant of \$910,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) through the EPA Community Grants program funded by Congressionally Directed Spending (ALN 66.202) to assist with the cost of replacing public and private lead service lines in the Greater Cincinnati Water Works service area; **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to receive and deposit grant funds for public lead service line replacement into Water Works Capital Permanent Improvement Fund revenue account number 756x8547, and grant funds for private lead service line replacement into Water Works Private Lead Service Line Replacement Special Revenue Fund revenue account number 312x8547; and **DECLARING** such expenditures to be for a public purpose.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate grant resources of up to \$910,000 from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the purpose of assisting with the cost of replacing public and private lead service lines in the Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) service area.

The U.S. EPA provides funding for water infrastructure through the EPA Community Grants program funded by Congressionally Directed Spending (ALN 66.202). EPA Community Grants program funding is awarded through Congressional appropriations in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the annual appropriations process.

GCWW has a need for additional funding to remove lead service lines throughout its service area. GCWW was approved for a Congressional appropriation by U.S. Representative Greg Landsman in the FY 2024 Federal budget to remove lead service lines throughout GCWW’s service area.

The City already applied for the grant, and the grant was awarded on February 27, 2025, but no grant funds will be accepted without approval by the City Council. This grant does not require matching funds, and there are no new FTEs/full time equivalents associated with this grant. The replacement of lead service lines serves the public purpose of protecting public health.

Replacing lead service lines is in accordance with the “Sustain” goal to “[b]ecome a healthier Cincinnati” and strategy to “[c]reate a healthy environment and reduce energy consumption” as described on pages 181-185 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the need to immediately accept the grant and begin work to remove the lead service lines to protect public health.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

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



Attachment