

Date: April 6, 2022

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: John P. Curp, Interim City Manager

Subject: BALTIMORE AVENUE MURAL

202200895

Attached is an emergency ordinance captioned as follows:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to design, install, and maintain artwork on the retaining wall located along Baltimore Avenue in the East Westwood neighborhood, notwithstanding any conflicting Department of Transportation and Engineering rules and regulations or any provision of the Cincinnati Municipal Code that would prohibit the installation and maintenance of the artwork.

The East Westwood Improvement Association would like to work with community volunteers to paint the Baltimore Street Mural on **4/23/2022** as part of their 2022 East Westwood Springfest activities. This is one of several projects that will be featured during the first annual East Westwood Springfest event, a three-day series of events designed to foster community pride and connectivity, which has been greatly impacted by the pandemic over the past two years. The mural design process had a great deal of community input from members across East Westwood through a series of focus group. The mural artist is Kira Loertscher, an art teacher at Roll Hill School. The project also looks to employ and provide stipends for up to five youth team members from the local youth council and schools to participate in the preparation and painting of the mural. Additional Community Partners include: the City of Cincinnati (Neighborhood Activation Fund), Westwood Works, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Cincinnati Toolbank, Roll Hill School, Third Presbyterian Church, East Westwood HOPE Center.

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to allow the public art project described in this ordinance to proceed to allow the corresponding benefits to the City and the East Westwood neighborhood to be realized at the earliest possible time.

The Administration recommends passage of the attached emergency ordinance.

Attachment I –

cc: John S. Brazina, Director, Transportation and Engineering

John P