

**September 24, 2025**

**To:** Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

202501777

**Subject: Ordinance – SOPEC Membership**

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Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

**AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to enter into any agreements necessary to enable the City to join the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("SOPEC") and act jointly with other municipalities, townships, counties, and other political subdivisions to maximize the potential benefits of electricity procurement through group purchasing efforts; and **APPROVING** the SOPEC Plan of Operation and Governance and the Amended and Restated Bylaws Governing SOPEC.

WHEREAS, on September 4, 2025, Council passed Ordinance No. 271-2025 authorizing the scheduling of two public hearings pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4928.20 to consider the Plan of Operation and Governance (the "Plan") for the Electric Service Aggregation Program sponsored by the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("SOPEC"); and

WHEREAS, the two public hearings were conducted, and Council has reviewed the Plan and the SOPEC Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 270-2011, passed August 3, 2011, authorizes the City Manager to exercise the authority granted by voters jointly with other political subdivisions of the State of Ohio and to execute and deliver any necessary agreements with such other political subdivisions to establish an Electric Service Aggregation Program; and

WHEREAS, Council finds it is in the best interest of the City and its residents to join the SOPEC and to authorize the City Manager to participate in the SOPEC aggregation program when it is advantageous to the City and its residents; now, therefore,

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the City Manager is authorized to enter into any agreements and take any action necessary for the City to join the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("SOPEC"), including but not limited to entering into the Amended and Restated Agreement Establishing the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council (DBA Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council) ("SOPEC Agreement") substantially in the form as attached, to implement the City's participation in the SOPEC's Electric Service Aggregation Programs and any additional programs referenced in the Plan as the City Manager determines is in the best interests of the City, its residents, and businesses.

Section 2. That the Plan of Operation and Governance (the "Plan") for the Electric Service Aggregation Program sponsored by the SOPEC is approved.

Section 3. That the Amended and Restated Bylaws Governing the SOPEC (DBA Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council) are adopted and approved.

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Section 4. That the proper City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and proper to carry out the terms of Sections 1 through 3.

Section 5. 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.

Joining SOPEC supports the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan 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 181-186 of Plan Cincinnati (2012). The reason for the emergency is the immediate need for the City to achieve greater savings for the City's electric customers as soon as possible. The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Oliver Kroner, Director, Office of Environment and Sustainability  
John S. Brazina, Interim Assistant City Manager