



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

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June 21, 2023

The Honorable Meeka Owens
City of Cincinnati
801 Plum St.
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Dear Ms. Owens:

We are very excited that the City of Cincinnati is considering joining the *Recovery Friendly Hamilton County* family of companies and organizations committed to changing how we deal with substance use disorder.

It is estimated that 23 million people in the United States are in recovery from substance use disorder. Further, some 75 percent of these people are in the workforce. Given these statistics, it is evident that we need to re-think our approach to how to work with our friends, neighbors and co-workers in recovery.

Eliminating the stigma of substance use disorder and allowing people working toward recovery the opportunity to engage in the workforce is a forward-thinking approach. Participation in the *Recovery Friendly Hamilton County* helps to create a paradigm shift in the way we deal with addiction and substance use disorder. Most people struggling with this disorder want nothing more than an opportunity to return to normalcy. Participation in society through regular work is a tremendous step toward beating the struggle with substance use.

We commend Cincinnati for consideration toward offering those in recovery a chance for a more productive life. In addition, we would like to thank Councilor Owens for her leadership and sensitivity in working to make the City of Cincinnati an even better employer. My team is available to answer any questions or concerns as you move forward. Please call on us anytime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Kesterman", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Kesterman
Health Commissioner

