

March 16, 2022

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: John P. Curp, Interim City Manager

Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – Parks: Lytle Park Improvements**

202200609

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

**AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept and deposit a donation in an amount of up to \$1,083,906 from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, as originally donated by the Western & Southern Financial Fund, into Parks Private Endowment and Donations Fund 430; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of \$1,083,906 from the unappropriated surplus of Parks Private Endowment and Donations Fund 430 to capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x182015, “Lytle Park Improvements,” for the purpose of providing resources for the restoration and improvement of Lytle Park; and **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of \$200,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Park Board Permanent Improvement Fund 752 to capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x182015, “Lytle Park Improvements,” for the purpose of providing resources for the restoration and improvement of Lytle Park.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance will authorize the City Manager to accept and deposit a donation in the amount of up to \$1,083,906 from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, as originally donated by the Western & Southern Financial Fund, into Parks Private Endowment and Donations Fund 430. This Emergency Ordinance will also authorize the transfer and appropriation of \$1,083,906 from the unappropriated surplus of Parks Private Endowment and Donations Fund 430 to existing capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x182015, “Lytle Park Improvements” for the purpose of providing resources for the restoration and improvement of Lytle Park. Finally, this Emergency Ordinance will authorize the transfer and appropriation of \$200,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Park Board Permanent Improvement Fund 752 to capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x182015, “Lytle Park Improvements” for the purpose of providing resources for the restoration and improvement of Lytle Park.

The Cincinnati Park Board facilitated a community engagement process to produce a design and renovation plan for Lytle Park in collaboration with the Western & Southern Financial Fund, which included new plazas, brick walkways, a decorative fountain, a running track, new landscape, lighting, and benches.

On December 10, 2014, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 0339-2014, which authorized the City Manager to accept and appropriate a payment in the amount of \$1,111,077.54 from the State of Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to

capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x152015, "Lytle Park Improvements," for the purpose of partially funding the restoration and improvement of Lytle Park following the State of Ohio's completion of the Lytle Tunnel Rehabilitation Project as compensation for damage to the existing park. On August 9, 2017, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 0226-2017, which authorized the City Manager to accept and appropriate an amount up to \$1,600,000 from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, as originally donated by the Western & Southern Financial Fund, to capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x152015, "Lytle Park Improvements," for the purpose of partially funding the restoration and improvement of Lytle Park.

On June 20, 2018, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 0154-2018, which authorized the City Manager to accept and appropriate an amount up to \$50,000 from the Cincinnati Park Commissioners' Private Endowment Funds to capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x182015, "Lytle Park Improvements," for the purpose of having necessary funding in place to allow the Park Board to move forward with appropriate contracting in order to stabilize and repair infrastructure at various locations throughout the Park System. The \$50,000 appropriation was to provide resources to make improvements to Lytle Park, including, but not limited to, replacing part of the playground located at Lytle Park that was removed as part of the park renovation.

The Lytle Park design and renovation plan evolved over time such that the Park Board and the Western & Southern Financial Fund have entered into a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide additional funding to complete the plan, including a new bocce ball court and relocation of a tree. Under this MOU, the Western & Southern Financial Fund will contribute an additional \$1,083,906 and the City would contribute an additional \$200,000 to complete the project.

The Lytle Park Improvements project was originally delayed due to litigation but is now cleared to begin. The additional funds appropriated by this Emergency Ordinance will supplement the prior funds received for the project. No new FTEs are associated with the acceptance of this donation.

This Emergency Ordinance is in accordance with the "Live" goal to "build a robust public life" and strategy to "develop and maintain inviting and engaging public spaces that encourage social interaction between different types of people," as described on pages 147 – 152 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept this donation and transfer the funding necessary to avoid a disruption in service.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director  
Karen Alder, Finance Director

Attachment

