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Vice Mayor

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Motion for Budget Priorities FY '25

The ultimate goal is to help every resident and every neighborhood to thrive. That means addressing the challenges of health and wealth disparities, housing and food insecurity, and physical and mental health. It means promoting public safety, thriving neighborhoods, growth in jobs and business opportunities. It's imperative that we make funding decisions through a lens of equity so that all of our residents across the city have the chance to live their best lives, to be healthy, and to prosper.

Many worthy organizations have applied for leveraged funding support, and we look forward to reviewing and commenting on the City Manager's and Mayor's funding recommendations for those organizations when available in the next few weeks.

We propose the following funding priorities under the five strategic goals that the administration is considering for the FY '25 budget:

Public Safety

- Advance Peace – a community-led violence interruption program that is successfully reducing violence in other cities across the country by creating opportunities for **local residents** who are credible messengers to lead and do the work in our neighborhoods to reduce gun violence.
- Establishment of a robust Office of Equity to monitor and target the racial health and wealth gap, address underlying uses of violence such as poverty and hopelessness, and create a culture of trauma-informed policy across City departments in conjunction with organizations including the Center for Closing the Health Gap and All-In Cincinnati.
- Programs for youth that create mentorships, recreation, career exploration and opportunities, education/tutoring support, and conflict resolution training

Thriving Neighborhoods

- Promotion of community engagement across all departments
- Bringing the NSP funding per community council back to \$10,000 per year
- Training for community councils to increase participation
- Technical tools to provide communication to all residents concerning upcoming development proposals as well as meetings and events, especially those in their neighborhood

Thriving Neighborhoods (Continued)

- Step Up – a program that reduces homelessness and provides 24/7 wraparound services for individuals and families who have moved from the streets to safe and permanent housing (a “Housing First” model)
- Recreation and childcare
- Opportunities in the arts – ArtWorks, Revolution Dance

Growing Economic Opportunity

- Employment opportunities for adults and youth, especially in the trades: Building Futures, Career Pathways Initiative, City’s apprenticeship programs
- Support for MidwestCon, BlackTech Week, and other initiatives that increase opportunities for training and growth in the hot tech job market and thereby attract tech start-ups and youth to move to Cincinnati
- Furthering City Council’s Equitable Development Policy by addressing the barriers for MBEs and WBEs: access to capital, first-time bonding, and capacity.
- Support for organizations that support and help to grow our small businesses, especially MBEs and WBEs

Fiscal Sustainability

A plan to address the City’s budget deficit, correct the shortfalls in the pension fund, and equitably disperse any balance of ARPA dollars held in reserve.

Excellent and Equitable Service Delivery

Tracking in a transparent and easily accessible manner across zip codes and neighborhoods the following:

- 1) expenditures of City funds, including but not limited to the funds from the sale of the Cincinnati Southern Railway,
- 2) number and amount of residential and commercial tax abatements, and
- 3) affordable housing for individuals and families whose annual income is at or below 60 percent of the Area Median Income.

Jan-Michael Lemo Kearney
