

Date: March 4, 2026

To: Mayor and the Members of City Counsel

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

202600972

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – Cybersecurity Program

Transmitted herewith is an emergency ordinance captioned as follows:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to adopt a cybersecurity program for the City of Cincinnati in compliance with Section 9.64 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Attachment
4903-9390-7602

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

IMD

EESW

An Ordinance No. _____

- 2026

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to adopt a cybersecurity program for the City of Cincinnati in compliance with Section 9.64 of the Ohio Revised Code.

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code (“R.C.”) 9.64, enacted through House Bill 96 and effective September 30, 2025, requires the legislative authority of each political subdivision to adopt a cybersecurity program that safeguards the political subdivision’s data, information technology, and information technology resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, R.C. 9.64 requires that such cybersecurity program be consistent with generally accepted best practices for cybersecurity, including, but not limited to, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework and the Center for Internet Security (CIS) cybersecurity best practices; and

WHEREAS, R.C. 9.64 further establishes requirements related to incident reporting, legislative approval of ransomware payments, and the treatment of cybersecurity-related records under Ohio law; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Auditor of State has issued guidance directing political subdivisions to formally adopt a cybersecurity program through legislative action; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of safeguarding its data, information technology systems, and information technology resources against cybersecurity threats and ransomware incidents; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Administrative Regulation 45, implemented by the City Manager on June 17, 2010, the City’s Department of Enterprise Technology Solutions (ETS) has long maintained an Information Security Policy that is consistent with generally accepted cybersecurity best practices and aligned with the requirements set forth in R.C. 9.64; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the City Manager is authorized to adopt a cybersecurity program in compliance with Ohio Revised Code (“R.C.”) 9.64 to safeguard the City’s data, information technology, and information technology resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity consistent with generally accepted best practices.

Section 2. That the Department of Enterprise Technology Solutions (ETS) or its successor is designated as the department that is responsible for the administration, implementation, oversight, and periodic review of the City’s cybersecurity program to ensure continued compliance with R.C. 9.64 and generally accepted cybersecurity best practices.

Section 3. That the appropriate City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and proper to comply with the terms of Section 1, and to implement, administer, maintain, and update the cybersecurity program as necessary to ensure continued compliance with R.C. 9.64.

Section 4. 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. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to comply with R.C. 9.64.

Passed _____, 2026

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk