

June 15, 2026

To: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager 202602275

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – Amending Administrative Code Article XIV - Public Recreation Commission

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

MODIFYING the provisions of Article XIV, “Public Recreation Commission,” of the Administrative Code of the City of Cincinnati by **ORDAINING** new Sections 7, “Department of Recreation,” and 8, “Duties of Director of Recreation”; **AMENDING** the Title and Sections 1, “Member,” 3, “Powers,” and 4, “Concession Privileges; Admission Fees”; and **REPEALING** Sections 5, “Director of Recreation,” and 6, “Severance,” to establish the Department of Recreation and clarify the respective authorities and responsibilities of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and the City Manager.

The City’s recreation programs, facilities, and services are critical components of public health, youth development, neighborhood vitality, and overall community well-being. Direct oversight of these operations currently rests with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission board members.

This emergency ordinance will clarify the administrative responsibilities of the City Manager with respect to the City’s recreation programming and operations by establishing a Department of Recreation and ensure proper oversight of day-to-day operations, personnel administration, budgeting, procurement, and implementation of policies consistent with other City departments in the executive and administrative service.

Updating the Administrative Code is necessary to delineate the respective expenditure authority of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and the administrative and operational authority of the City Manager, consistent with the Charter.

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to establish the Department of Recreation and clarify the respective authorities and responsibilities of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and the City Manager to ensure efficient operation and execution of the City’s recreation programming and operations.

Cc: Cathy Bailey, Interim Assistant City Manager
Angie Wright, Chief of Staff