



AFTAB PUREVAL

City of Cincinnati, Office of the Mayor

August 2nd, 2024

STATEMENT

*Mayor Aftab Pureval's response to City Administration's report
on the Cincinnati Futures Commission recommendations*

As we continue our work to build policies, vetting processes, and a path forward in response to the Futures Commission's recommendations, the City Administration has returned a comprehensive report to inform and assist our decision-making. I asked our Administration, in this report, to provide thorough updates on completed and ongoing City actions in line with the Commission's proposals, as well as a clear framework to support the policy guidance required of us. They have delivered exactly that, and I am grateful to City Manager Long and her team for their continued excellence and intentionality.

While the Futures Commission provided a wide-reaching set of recommendations, both long- and short-term, the overarching goal is well-defined: equitable growth. Elected officials have made clear that our north star in governance is to grow our entire City, ensuring economic prosperity while leaving no one behind. The Administration, in the report before Council and in their ongoing work, has remained consistent with our pro-growth policy goals. The actions and guidance they have presented affirm that equitable growth does not happen by divine providence; it must be made to happen through intentional, forward-looking strategies and investments.

Often, however, implementing growth strategies has the potential to conflict with other critical priorities. Without thoughtful implementation, this can lead to unintended consequences antithetical to our goals: displacement and an exacerbation of wealth inequities that the Futures Commission rightly emphasized. To overcome this conflict more transparently, and to increase consistency, the Administration's report describes the upcoming work, in partnership with elected officials, to develop clear, written, and collective strategic objectives for equitable growth. This key policy guidance will empower the Administration to offer specific recommendations about City structure, staffing, investment needs, and measurable metrics to track progress.

I believe it is important to note the significant alignment between the Futures Commission and the Administration's existing reforms and strategies, detailed in this report. Several of the recommendations, for example, were funded in the most recent budget cycle under the direction of elected officials. This consistency of vision cannot be overstated, and it provides us with necessary momentum for future implementation.

As we move forward in fulfilling our duty to vet, review, and implement the goals of the Futures Commission, we must do so with the same care that has gone into the work leading up to this moment. Many of the recommendations directly or indirectly affect our City's public servants significantly. Our employees are our greatest asset. The Administration is a collection of approximately 6,000 dedicated workers, and they are the backbone of everything we seek to accomplish. Because of this reality, no recommendation can be fully vetted without understanding its impact on the resources and morale of our employees. Our sacred commitment to our public servants is and will remain a priority as we continue this process.

This report from our Administration is not the final word. Rather, it provides a framework for future workflows and identifies structural and legal considerations that we must address together. As the Futures Commission noted, many recommendations require further study and task forces to better understand known and unknown challenges. With this report, the Administration has set out processes that will not only further identify and solve those challenges, but also drive consensus to empower effective and efficient implementation.

I want to reiterate my gratitude for Jon Moeller and the members of the Commission who took on our City's most fundamental and complex issues. In the face of global transition and daunting macroeconomic forces, they have provided an important and ambitious blueprint for Cincinnati to not just survive, but thrive. I continue to be inspired by our community's ability to come together, from disparate parts of our diverse city, and unite to meet our biggest moments.

With the support of our Administration, we are up to the task of carrying this essential work forward. Every day, I see diverse Cincinnatians working together to accomplish shared goals. I see our public servants striving in big and small ways to make our city a better place. And I see an unmatched civic pride that will not allow the City to falter. I am energized by the process that remains, and I look forward to doing my part, in collaboration with our Administration and Council, to create an abundant future for Cincinnati.



Aftab Pureval
Mayor, City of Cincinnati