

November 9, 2020

To: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

From: Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager *UB & PBM*

202002109

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – Hamilton County CARES Expanding Free Wi-Fi Program Grant for Community Recreation Centers

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant in the amount of up to \$250,000 from the Hamilton County CARES Expanding Free Wi-Fi Program for the purpose of assisting the Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) in the upgrading and new installation of public Wi-Fi offerings in the CRC community recreation centers; and **AUTHORIZING** the Finance Director to deposit the grant funds into Recreation Federal Grant Projects Fund 324.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant in an amount up to \$250,000 from the Hamilton County CARES Expanding Free Wi-Fi Program for the purpose of assisting the Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) in the upgrading and new installation of public Wi-Fi offerings in the CRC community recreation centers.

This Emergency Ordinance also authorizes the Finance Director to deposit the grant funds into Recreation Federal Grant Projects Fund 324. There is no match requirement associated with the acceptance of this grant. There will be no new FTE associated with the acceptance of this grant.

CRC is working with the Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) and other childcare service providers to create and provide robust virtual learning environments that are necessary to support kids and families without the necessary resources to maintain educational paths.

Please note that any resources previously allocated from COVID-19 Fund 473 for upgrading and installing new public Wi-Fi offerings in the CRC community recreation centers, that are offset by the Hamilton County CARES Expanding Free Wi-Fi Program grant resources, will be reevaluated for opportunities for re-allocation to cover the cost of other CARES related eligible expenses.

This Emergency Ordinance is in accordance with the “Collaborate” goal to “Work in synergy with the Cincinnati community,” as described on page 209 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

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The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept grant resources in a timely manner so the CRC can continue to provide robust virtual learning environments.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Christopher A. Bigham, Assistant City Manager
Karen Alder, Finance Director

Attachment

