

January 14, 2026

To: Mayor and Members of City Council 202600062

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – OES: Center Hill Solar Power Array

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

ESTABLISHING new capital improvement program project account no. 980x104x261012, “Center Hill Solar Power Array,” to provide for the installation of a solar photovoltaic array at the site of the former Center Hill Landfill; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and return to source of \$475,400 from capital improvement program project account no. 980x104x261029, “Green Cincinnati Sustainability Initiatives,” to Income Tax Permanent Improvement Fund 758 to realign sources with uses; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and return to source of \$6,325,000 from capital improvement program project account no. 980x101x261055, “Strategic Property Acquisition: Health,” to Public Building Improvement Bond Fund 861 to realign sources with uses; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of \$12,100,400 to newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x104x261012, “Center Hill Solar Power Array,” according to the attached Schedule of Appropriation; and **DECLARING** expenditures for the Center Hill Solar Power Array serve a public purpose by expanding opportunities for renewable energy generation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cincinnati.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the following:

1. The establishment of new capital improvement program project account no. 980x104x261012, “Center Hill Solar Power Array,” to install a solar photovoltaic array at the site of the former Center Hill Landfill;
2. The transfer and return to source of \$475,400 from capital improvement program project account no. 980x104x261029, “Green Cincinnati Sustainability Initiatives,” to Income Tax Permanent Improvement Fund 758 to realign sources with uses;
3. The transfer and return to source of \$6,325,000 from capital improvement program project account no. 980x101x261055, “Strategic Property Acquisition: Health,” to Public Building Improvement Bond Fund 861 to realign sources with uses;
4. The transfer and appropriation of \$12,100,400 to newly established capital improvement program project account no. 980x104x261012, “Center Hill Solar Power Array”; and

5. The declaration that expenditures for the Center Hill Solar Power Array serve a public purpose by expanding opportunities for renewable energy generation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cincinnati.

There is a \$12,400,000 need to install a solar photovoltaic array at the site of the former Center Hill Landfill, for which various resources will be appropriated in accordance with the attached Schedule of Appropriation. Ownership of the solar array will provide a fixed electric rate that is lower than the existing Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the project as well as projected utility rate increases. This project is also eligible for a minimum elective pay benefit from the Federal government equal to 30% of the project costs, with the potential to secure an additional 20% benefit.

The Center Hill Solar Power Array supports the implementation of the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan and advances the City's goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Installing a solar photovoltaic array is in accordance with the "Sustain" goal to "[b]ecome a healthier Cincinnati" and strategy to "[c]reate a healthy environment and reduce energy consumption" as described on pages 181 - 185 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to appropriate resources to the capital project to meet established deadlines.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director
Steve Webb, Finance Director

Attachment