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Cincinnati City Councilmember

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MOTION

WE MOVE the Administration provide a report on the potential impact that passage of ISSUE 3, the charter amendment that would mandate at least \$50 million each year be allocated solely for affordable housing, could have on the financial health of the Cincinnati Retirement System given the predictions of mass layoffs in the event of its passage.

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STATEMENT

City employees have gone through traumatic events with COVID-19, Temporary Emergency Leave (TEL), the Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP), service reductions, and staff reductions over the past year. If the City is required to spend an additional \$50 million from the General and Capital Funds, it would likely require additional staff reductions, according to recent reports from the City Administration.

The Calendar Year (CY) 2022 Tentative Tax Budget (TTB) projected a \$26 million shortfall in the General Fund and was passed by the City Council in January 2021. The current deficit is projected at \$30 million due to various target adjustments.

Departments have been asked to submit an 8.0% General Fund reduction scenario to cover the shortfall. Departments have communicated that due to budget reductions over the past 20 years and especially large reductions taken in FY 2021 due to the pandemic, they cannot sustain an 8.0% cut and are instead requesting additional dollars for staffing and non-personnel shortfalls in order to continue minimum basic city services.

An additional \$50 million unfunded mandate would result in a budget deficit of nearly \$80 million for FY 2022 and will result in catastrophic reductions to basic services. The following are the projected impacts on various department budgets, which ultimately must translate into staff reductions.

- **Department Eliminations – \$4.5 million including:**
 - Department of Economic Inclusion (DEI) \$2,036,000
 - Office of Performance & Data Analytics (OPDA) \$1,381,574
 - Office of Human Relations \$376,000
 - City Planning \$541,810
 - Aging and Accessibility \$145,000

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o **Department Service Reductions:**

• **Public Services reduced trash collections – \$4.0 million:**

- Trash pickup will switch from weekly to every other week and recycling is eliminated.
- Results in the layoff of 4 CODE employees and 36 AFSCME employees
- This will also result in a shortage of Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders resulting in slower response to snow emergencies.

• **Cincinnati Recreation Commission facility and maintenance reduction – \$4.5 million:**

- Close 12-15 pools and 9 recreation centers
- Reduced maintenance of playgrounds and recreation areas including trash/litter pickup and mowing
- Results in the layoff of 7 CODE employees, 13 AFSCME employees, and all part-time staff in the recreation centers and all part-time Municipal Workers (100+)

• **Cincinnati Park Board service reductions – \$2.4 million:**

- Reduction of summer programs and maintenance including nature camps and maintenance operations
- Results in the layoff of 2 CODE employees, 12 AFSCME employees, and all part-time maintenance employees

• **Office of Environment and Sustainability (OES) – \$2.5 million:**

- Eliminates the entire office and ends the recycling program permanently.

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