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Vice Mayor

April 7, 2023

Communication

I support the continued funding of the organizations in our FY '23 budget. Following are additional items for consideration for the FY'24 budget:

I. Public Safety

- A. Director and Administrative Assistant, Office of Safety Management - \$150,000
- B. Advance Peace – Anti-Gun Violence Program
- C. Services such as those provided previously by Out of the Crossfire: Wraparound services provided at the hospital for victims of gun violence and their families
- D. City’s current Anti-Gun Violence Programs
- E. CCROW – \$300,000 to allow an additional cold case detective and additional social workers.
- F. Fund grassroots anti-gun violence programs.

II. Growing Economic Opportunity - Jobs and Career Building

- A. Fund the City Manager’s Career Pathways Initiative Program for youth.
- B. Increase funding for small businesses/entrepreneurship development and growth.
- C. Fund Building Futures – a program initiated by the Columbus NAACP that involves training and job placement by the AFL-CIO’s Building Trades in conjunction with the Urban League. In Cincinnati, members of City Council, the AFL-CIO and Building Trades, the Cincinnati NAACP, the Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio, and Hamilton County are working together to replicate Columbus’ program. Recently, the National Urban League committed to supporting the replication of the Building Futures program in several cities.
- D. Fund Cincinnati’s Equitable Development initiatives for the Convention Center renovation project and the Convention Center District. Pursuant to the Equitable Development Program passed by City Council, the City has committed to creating an Access to Capital Fund and assistance with the process for securing bonding in order for smaller MBE and WBE developers and contractors to have the opportunity to participate in the Duke Energy Convention Center renovation and the Convention Center District development.

III. Thriving Neighborhoods

A. Homeownership and Repairs

1. Expand the HELP program for home repairs to include a fund for home improvements for low and moderate income families (in keeping with City Council's goal of making the new three-tiered tax abatement policy more equitable)
2. Continue funding of HARBOR to help low and moderate income families to make repairs when cited with code violations
3. Continue funding for CARE to help senior citizens with home repairs
4. Continue funding for the American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) to help families overcome the homeownership barrier of that downpayment requirements present.

B. Affordable Housing

In addition to ensuring that the Affordable Housing Fund of Funds managed by the Cincinnati Development Fund continues to tackle the huge demand for affordable housing, especially at the 60% AMI level and below, funds must be allocated for proven methods of creating affordable housing to meet the needs of low-income families and Cincinnati residents experiencing homelessness, especially "Housing First" models.

C. Neighborhood Needs

1. The budget for Community Councils should be at least \$10,000 per community council.
2. Fund the Catalytic Neighborhoods Fund for capital needs in Cincinnati's neighborhoods.
3. Establish a Neighborhoods Community Engagement Fund for community council leadership training and implementation to increase community participation in community councils and to provide funds for community events. Invest in Neighborhoods is the recommended organization to oversee this fund.
4. Fund the Boots on the Ground Fund at \$300,000 minimum to help grassroots non-profit organizations to address a variety of community needs. Partner again with the Greater Cincinnati Foundation that in FY'23 raised matching private capital; presented workshops for smaller organizations to provide information on topics such as establishment of non-profit status, record-keeping, and capacity building; and managed the fund.
5. Fund the Safe and Clean Fund to give financial resources to non-profit organizations for the clean-up of litter, eradication of blight, and work against gun violence. Partner with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful to manage the fund.

6. Fund an additional staff member for Invest in Neighborhoods.
7. Some neighborhoods are in need of development but do not have a community development corporation (CDC). The City's FY '24 budget should include additional funding for established CDCs to hire an individual to work with a neighborhood that does not have a community development corporation. Management of this funding would be through Homebase.
8. Funding for Capital Projects
 - a. The Robert O'Neal Multicultural Arts Center (ROMAC) – West End Neighborhood
 - b. The Imperial Theatre – Mohawk Neighborhood
 - c. Queen Mother's Market – Walnut Hills Neighborhood
 - d. Pendleton Heritage Center – East End Neighborhood
9. **Infrastructure Needs:** Pedestrian safety/street calming tools, as well as city buildings, steps and sidewalks in need of repair are included in our priorities for our city. The FY '24 budget must include the necessary funding to meet the needs of our neighborhoods. Given the available federal funds, the amount of local funding needed should be determined.
10. The FY '24 budget must include adequate consideration for recreational infrastructure in order to attract young people. The Cincinnati Parks and the Recreation Commission will need funding for skateboard/skating parks.

IV. **Regional Safety Complex**

The Regional Safety Complex (RSC) will allow the City to relocate its gun range, currently located in Evendale, to a site that is not in proximity to a residential development. The RSC will provide separate gun ranges for the Cincinnati Police Department and Hamilton County Sheriff's Dept., both of which will be shared with other police departments and federal agencies. The RSC also will include some shared training (*e.g.*, SWAT, canine, and classrooms) which will create a more efficient and effective use of resources and the opportunity for the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County to collaborate. The RSC site has the potential to be an Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy (OPOTA). Some city, county and federal funds already have been allocated. State legislators are requesting that the City contribute more funds. The FY '24 budget should include an amount to be determined by the administration.