City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Agenda - Final

Budget, Finance & Governance Committee

Chairperson Jeff Cramerding
Vice Chair Evan Nolan
Councilmember Mark Jeffreys
Councilmember Anna Albi
Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Kearney
Councilmember Meeka Owens
Councilmember Scotty Johnson
Councilmember Seth Walsh
Councilmember Ryan James

Monday, April 6, 2026 | **1:00 PM** | **Council Chambers, Room 300**

PRESENTATIONS

Department of City Planning & Engagement

Katherine Keough-Jurs, Director

Office of Environment and Sustainability

Oliver Kroner, Director

City Credit Overview

Davenport & Company

Kyle Laux, Senior Vice-President

Roland Kooch, Senior Vice-President

A.J. Allen, Associate Vice-President

AGENDA

URBAN FORESTRY ASSESSMENT

1. 202601181 **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, on 4/1/2026, **DETERMINING** to proceed with a special assessment for the Urban Forestry Program for the calendar year 2027, for the control of blight and disease of shade trees and for planting, maintaining, trimming, and removing shade trees in the public right-of-way in the City of Cincinnati's Urban Forestry Maintenance District.

Sponsors: City Manager

Attachments: Transmittal
Ordinance

2. 202601191 **ORDINANCE** submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, on 4/1/2026, **LEVYING** a special assessment for the Urban Forestry Program for calendar year 2027 for control of blight and disease of shade trees and for planting, maintaining, trimming, and removing shade trees within the public right-of-way in the City of Cincinnati's Urban Forestry Maintenance District.

Sponsors: City Manager

Attachments: Transmittal
Ordinance

FUNDING AGREMEENT

3. 202601192 **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, on 4/1/2026, **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to execute a funding agreement with Groundwork Ohio River Valley to provide one-time operational funding for Green Cincinnati Plan climate resilience programming in Cincinnati; **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to expend up to $50,000 of existing resources from Office of Environment and Sustainability General Fund non-personnel operating budget account no. 050x104x7400 to provide one-time operational funding to Groundwork Ohio River Valley for Green Cincinnati Plan climate resilience programming in Cincinnati; and **DECLARING** such expenditure to serve a public purpose by supporting Green Cincinnati Plan implementation in Cincinnati.

Sponsors: City Manager

Attachments: Transmittal
Ordinance

TRANSFERS AND APPROPRIATIONS

4. 202601194 **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, on 4/1/2026, **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and return to source of $565,000 from various capital improvement program project accounts to decrease the funding allocated to those accounts in accordance with Schedule A of the attached Schedule of Transfer; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of $500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Railway Trust Infrastructure Fund 712 to an existing capital improvement program project account to provide resources for a certain capital improvement program project account in accordance with Schedule B of the attached Schedule of Transfer; and **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of $65,000 from the unappropriated surplus of General Fund 050 to an Enterprise Services General Fund non-personnel operating budget account in accordance with Schedule C of the attached Schedule of Transfer.

Sponsors: City Manager

Attachments: Transmittal
Ordinance
Attachment

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

5. 202601195 **ORDINANCE** submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, on 4/1/2026, **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept and appropriate a grant of $2,000 from the American Heart Association to support the Cincinnati Health Department's participation in the Ambulatory Quality Improvement Program; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the grant funds into Public Health Research Fund revenue account no. 350x8571.

Sponsors: City Manager

Attachments: Transmittal
Ordinance

6. 202601193 **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, on 4/1/2026, **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept an in-kind donation from Taking Root and the University of Cincinnati, valued at up to $40,000, consisting of land improvements on City-owned property in the Camp Washington neighborhood of Cincinnati.

Sponsors: City Manager

Attachments: Transmittal
Ordinance

UNCLAIMED FUNDS

7. 202601197 **ORDINANCE (EMERGENCY)** submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, on 4/1/2026, **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept up to $11,056.91 from the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Unclaimed Funds to reimburse the City for unclaimed funds owed to the City; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit unclaimed funds as follows (i) up to $81.92 in the unappropriated surplus of Parking System Facilities Fund 102, (ii) up to $639.72 in the unappropriated surplus of Community Health Center Activities Fund 395, and (iii) up to $10,335.27 in unappropriated surplus of General Fund 050.

Sponsors: City Manager

Attachments: Transmittal
Ordinance

COMMUNICATIONS

8. 202601206 **COMMUNICATION**, submitted by Councilmember Walsh regarding Budget Priorities for FY27 Recommended Budget.

Sponsors: Walsh

Attachments: Communication

9. 202601207 **COMMUNICATION**, submitted by Councilmember Johnson regarding Budget Priorities for FY27 Recommended Budget.

Sponsors: Johnson

Attachments: Communication

10. 202601208 **COMMUNICATION**, submitted by Councilmember Owens regarding Budget Priorities for FY27 Recommended Budget.

Sponsors: Owens

Attachments: Communication

11. 202601209 **COMMUNICATION**, submitted by Councilmember Jeffreys regarding Budget Priorities for FY27 Recommended Budget.

Sponsors: Jeffreys

Attachments: Communication

12. 202601226 **COMMUNICATION**, submitted by Councilmember Nolan regarding Budget Priorities for FY27 Recommended Budget.

Sponsors: Nolan

Attachments: Communication

13. 202601227 **COMMUNICATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Kearney regarding Budget Priorities for FY27 Recommended Budget.

Sponsors: Kearney

Attachments: Communication

14. 202601232 **COMMUNICATION**, submitted by Councilmember Albi regarding Budget Priorities for FY27 Recommended Budget.

Attachments: Communication

15. 202601230 **COMMUNICATION**, submitted by Councilmember James regarding Budget Priorities for FY27 Recommended Budget.

Sponsors: James

Attachments: Communication

PRESENTATIONS

16. 202601204 **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, dated 4/6/2026, regarding Department of City Planning and Engagement (CPE) Budget Presentation.

Sponsors: City Manager

Attachments: Transmittal

Presentation

17. 202601203 **PRESENTATION,** submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, dated 4/6/2026, regarding Office of Environment and Sustainability (OES) Budget Presentation.

Sponsors: City Manager

Attachments: Transmittal

Presentation

18. 202601231 **PRESENTATION** submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, dated 4/6/2026, regarding Capital Planning, Debt Capacity, and Debt Affordability.

Sponsors: City Manager

Attachments: Presentation

Transmittal

ADJOURNMENT

city of CINCINNATI
Interdepartment Correspondence Sheet

April 1, 2026

TO: Mayor and Members of City Council

202601181

FROM: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

SUBJECT: **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE — 2027 Urban Forestry Special Assessment Determination**

Attached is an emergency ordinance captioned:

> **DETERMINING** to proceed with a special assessment for the Urban Forestry Program for the calendar year 2027, for the control of blight and disease of shade trees and for planting, maintaining, trimming, and removing shade trees in the public right-of-way in the City of Cincinnati's Urban Forestry Maintenance District.

The Urban Forestry assessment must be enacted by City Council every year to assure funding for street tree maintenance and planting. An ordinance must be approved by City Council to proceed with the street tree program in accordance with the resolution of necessity previously passed by City Council.

February 11, 2026, Council passed Resolution No. 07-2026 pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.) declaring the necessity of assessing $0.31 per front foot for the control of blight and disease of shade trees within the public right-of-way. No objections were filed to the special assessment.

This transmittal is the second step of a three-step process to establish the special urban forestry assessment for the City of Cincinnati for 2027.

The Administration recommends the adoption of this emergency ordinance.

Attachment I – Emergency Ordinance

cc: Jason Barron, Director of Parks
C. Courtney, Division Manager Natural Resources
G. Dienno, Supervisor of Urban Forestry
H. Fairbanks, CFO Parks

E M E R G E N C Y

JWF

- 2026

DETERMINING to proceed with a special assessment for the Urban Forestry Program for calendar year 2027 for the control of blight and disease of shade trees and for planting, maintaining, trimming, and removing shade trees in the public right-of-way in the City of Cincinnati's Urban Forestry Maintenance District.

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2026, Council passed Resolution No. 7-2026 pursuant to R.C. Section 727.12, declaring the necessity of continuing the Urban Forestry Program for the control of blight and disease of shade trees and for planting, maintaining, trimming, and removing shade trees in the public right-of-way in the City's Urban Forestry Maintenance District, for calendar year 2027; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of Resolution No. 7-2026, Council also authorized the assessment of properties within the Urban Forestry Maintenance District at the rate of $0.31 per front foot, and the estimated assessments were prepared and placed on file in the Office of the Clerk of Council; and

WHEREAS, no objections were filed to the special assessment pursuant to R.C. Section 727.15; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That Council is determined to proceed with the Urban Forestry Program for the control of blight and disease of shade trees within the public right-of-way and for planting, maintaining, trimming, and removing shade trees along the streets of the City of Cincinnati's Urban Forestry Maintenance District for calendar year 2027 as set out and approved in accordance with the provisions of Resolution No. 7-2026.

Section 2. That Council approves and adopts the estimated assessments, as prepared and filed in the Office of the Clerk of Council.

Section 3. That no claim for damages has been filed pursuant to R.C. Section 727.18.Section 4. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms

of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to pass this ordinance determining the need to proceed with the assessment before Council passes the levying ordinance required by statute by the deadline.

Passed:_____, 2026

_____
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest:_____
Clerk

city of CINCINNATI
Interdepartment Correspondence Sheet

April 1, 2026

TO: Mayor and Members of City Council

202601191

FROM: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

SUBJECT: **ORDINANCE — 2027 Urban Forestry Special Assessment Determination**

Attached is an ordinance captioned:

> **LEVYING** a special assessment for the Urban Forestry Program for calendar year 2027 for control of blight and disease of shade trees and for planting, maintaining, trimming, and removing shade trees within the public right-of-way in the City of Cincinnati's Urban Forestry Maintenance District.

The Urban Forestry assessment must be enacted by City Council every year to assure funding for street tree maintenance and planting. An ordinance must be approved by City Council to proceed with the street tree program in accordance with the resolution of necessity previously passed by City Council.

February 11, 2026, Council passed Resolution No. 07-2026 pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.) declaring the necessity of assessing $0.31 per front foot for the control of blight and disease of shade trees within the public right-of-way. No objections were filed to the special assessment.

This transmittal is the third and final step of a three-step process to establish the special urban forestry assessment for the City of Cincinnati for 2027.

The Administration recommends the adoption of this ordinance.

Attachment I – Ordinance

cc: Jason Barron, Director of Parks
C. Courtney, Division Manager Natural Resources
G. Dienno, Supervisor of Urban Forestry
H. Fairbanks, CFO Parks

LEVYING a special assessment for the Urban Forestry Program for calendar year 2027 for control of blight and disease of shade trees and for planting, maintaining, trimming, and removing shade trees within the public right-of-way in the City of Cincinnati's Urban Forestry Maintenance District.

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2026, Council passed Resolution No. 7-2026 pursuant to R.C. Section 727.12, declaring the necessity of continuing the Urban Forestry Program ("Program") for the control of blight and disease of shade trees and for planting, maintaining, trimming, and removing shade trees in the public right-of-way in the City's Urban Forestry Maintenance District, for calendar year 2027; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of Resolution No. 7-2026, Council also authorized the assessment of properties within the Urban Forestry Maintenance District at the rate of $0.31 per front foot, and the estimated assessments were prepared and placed on file in the Office of the Clerk of Council; and

WHEREAS, notice of the passage of the resolution was published in a newspaper of general circulation as required by law, and notice by certified mail has been completed to the property owners for whom the assessment amount exceeds $500; and

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding objections to the estimated assessments; and

WHEREAS, on _____, 2026, Council passed Ordinance No. _____-2026 determining to proceed with the special assessment; and

WHEREAS, Council has determined that the actual cost of the Program does not exceed the estimated cost for the Program for calendar year 2027; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That there is levied, in accordance with R.C. Chapter 727, an assessment of $0.31 per front foot upon the property abutting the public right-of-way and streets within the Urban Forestry Maintenance District, which includes all territory within, and coextensive with, the City's boundaries, for the portion of the cost and expense of said shade tree program for the Urban Forestry Maintenance District for calendar year 2027.

Section 2. That it is determined that said assessments do not exceed the special benefits resulting from said Urban Forestry Program and do not exceed any statutory limitations.

Section 3. That the special assessment against each lot and parcel of land shall be payable in one annual installment to the Treasurer of Hamilton County, Ohio at the same time and in the same manner as real property taxes, due and payable in December 2026, are paid.

Section 4. That the City Treasurer and the Clerk of Council are directed to certify said assessments to the Auditor of Hamilton County, Ohio to be placed by the Auditor on the Tax List and collected in the same manner as real property taxes are collected for December 2026, as provided by law.

Section 5. That said assessments, when collected, shall be placed into a fund to pay the cost and expense of the Urban Forestry Program and shall be paid out upon proper vouchers in payment of such cost and expense.

Section 6. That the following costs shall be paid out of a fund provided to pay the City's portion of the cost and expense of the shade tree program: the cost of street intersections, any uncollectible assessments on property owned by the federal government or the State of Ohio, assessments on property owned by the City, and any portion of the cost not specifically assessed.

Section 7. That the Clerk of Council is directed to cause notice of this ordinance to be published once in a newspaper of general circulation within the city.

Section 8. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

Passed:_____, 2026

_____
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest:_____
Clerk

city of CINCINNATI
Interdepartment Correspondence Sheet

April 1, 2026

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

202601192

Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – OES: Groundwork Ohio River Valley Funding Agreement**

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

> **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to execute a funding agreement with Groundwork Ohio River Valley to provide one-time operational funding for Green Cincinnati Plan climate resilience programming in Cincinnati; **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to expend up to $50,000 of existing resources from Office of Environment and Sustainability General Fund non-personnel operating budget account no. 050x104x7400 to provide one-time operational funding to Groundwork Ohio River Valley for Green Cincinnati Plan climate resilience programming in Cincinnati; and **DECLARING** such expenditure to serve a public purpose by supporting Green Cincinnati Plan implementation in Cincinnati.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to execute a funding agreement with Groundwork Ohio River Valley to provide one-time operational funding for Green Cincinnati Plan climate resilience programming in Cincinnati. This Emergency Ordinance also authorizes the City Manager to expend up to $50,000 of existing resources from Office of Environment and Sustainability General Fund non-personnel operating budget account no. 050x104x7400 to provide one-time operational funding to Groundwork Ohio River Valley for Green Cincinnati Plan climate resilience programming in Cincinnati. Finally, this Emergency Ordinance declares this expenditure to serve a public purpose.

Groundwork Ohio River Valley will use these resources to provide the City with climate resilience programming, including the following projects: the West End Resilience Hub, Climate Advisory Group Re-Convening, Green Infrastructure Storymap and Climate Safe Neighborhoods Lite.

Providing one-time operational funding to Groundwork Ohio River Valley to provide climate resilience programming is in accordance with the "Sustain" goal to "[b]ecome a healthier Cincinnati" as described on page 181 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to execute a funding agreement with Groundwork Ohio River Valley before the end of Fiscal Year 2026.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

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

Attachment

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AUTHORIZING the City Manager to execute a funding agreement with Groundwork Ohio River Valley to provide one-time operational funding for Green Cincinnati Plan climate resilience programming in Cincinnati; **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to expend up to $50,000 of existing resources from Office of Environment and Sustainability General Fund non-personnel operating budget account no. 050x104x7400 to provide one-time operational funding to Groundwork Ohio River Valley for Green Cincinnati Plan climate resilience programming in Cincinnati; and **DECLARING** such expenditure to serve a public purpose by supporting Green Cincinnati Plan implementation in Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, Groundwork Ohio River Valley is a non-profit organization in Greater Cincinnati that aims to sustainably regenerate, improve, and manage the environment through community partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Groundwork Ohio River Valley will use these resources to provide the City with climate resilience programming, including the following projects: the West End Resilience Hub, Climate Advisory Group Re-Convening, Green Infrastructure Storymap, and Climate Safe Neighborhoods Lite; and

WHEREAS, providing one-time operational funding to Groundwork Ohio River Valley for climate resilience programming will support the City's implementation of the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan's "Community Planning and Social Cohesion" goal to "[c]omplete five climate adaptation and resilience projects per year" and strategy to "[u]se more community-based assessments, planning, programs, and training to reduce the social impacts of climate vulnerabilities" as described on pages 142-144 of the Green Cincinnati Plan (2023); and

WHEREAS, providing one-time operational funding to Groundwork Ohio River Valley to provide climate resilience programming is in accordance with the "Sustain" goal to "[b]ecome a healthier Cincinnati" as described on page 181 of Plan Cincinnati (2012); now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the City Manager is authorized to execute a funding agreement with Groundwork Ohio River Valley to provide one-time operational funding for Green Cincinnati Plan climate resilience programming in Cincinnati.

Section 2. That the City Manager is authorized to expend up to $50,000 of existing resources from Office of Environment and Sustainability General Fund non-personnel operating

budget account no. 050x104x7400 to provide one-time operational funding to Groundwork Ohio River Valley for Green Cincinnati Plan climate resilience programming in Cincinnati.

Section 3. That providing one-time operational funding to Groundwork Ohio River Valley to provide climate resilience programming is declared to serve a public purpose by supporting Green Cincinnati Plan implementation in Cincinnati.

Section 4. That the proper City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of Sections 1 through 3.

Section 5. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to execute a funding agreement with Groundwork Ohio River Valley before the end of Fiscal Year 2026.

Passed:_____, 2026

_____
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest:_____
Clerk

city of CINCINNATI
Interdepartment Correspondence Sheet

April 1, 2026

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

202601194

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – Budget: FY 2026 Capital Budget Reprogramming**

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

> **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and return to source of $565,000 from various capital improvement program project accounts to decrease the funding allocated to those accounts in accordance with Schedule A of the attached Schedule of Transfer; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of $500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Railway Trust Infrastructure Fund 712 to an existing capital improvement program project account to provide resources for a certain capital improvement program project account in accordance with Schedule B of the attached Schedule of Transfer; and **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of $65,000 from the unappropriated surplus of General Fund 050 to an Enterprise Services General Fund non-personnel operating budget account in accordance with Schedule C of the attached Schedule of Transfer.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance will authorize various adjustments to the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Schedule A of the attached Schedule of Transfer includes the return of $565,000 from various capital improvement program project accounts to various funding sources. Schedule B authorizes the transfer and appropriation of $500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Railway Trust Infrastructure Fund 712 to an existing capital improvement program project account. Section C of the Schedule of Transfer authorizes the transfer and appropriation of $65,000 from the unappropriated surplus of General Fund 050 to an Enterprise Services General Fund non-personnel operating budget account.

There is an immediate need of $500,000 for HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) system improvements at the Cincinnati Police Academy located at Spinney Field as well as improvements to the Beekman Garage Roof. There is $500,000 in existing capital improvement program project account, "Wall Stab. & Landslide Correction – CSR" which will not be needed until after July 1, 2026, and can be reprogrammed to meet these more immediate needs. The $500,000 is anticipated to be restored to the Wall Stabilization & Landslide Correction program in FY 2027.

There is an immediate need in the Division of Parking Facilities in Enterprise Services to conduct a curb space inventory study. The Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) is contributing $65,000 toward this study to benefit the public right-of-way.

Reprogramming capital resources is in accordance with the "Sustain" goal to "[m]anage our financial resources" as well as the strategy to "[s]pend public funds more strategically" as described on pages 199 and 202-204 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to make funding available in order to enter into any necessary agreements related to the curb space inventory study prior to the end of FY 2026.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

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

Attachments

E M E R G E N C Y

JWF

- 2026

AUTHORIZING the transfer and return to source of $565,000 from various capital improvement program project accounts to decrease the funding allocated to those accounts in accordance with Schedule A of the attached Schedule of Transfer; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of $500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Railway Trust Infrastructure Fund 712 to an existing capital improvement program project account to provide resources for a certain capital improvement program project account in accordance with Schedule B of the attached Schedule of Transfer; and **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of $65,000 from the unappropriated surplus of General Fund 050 to an Enterprise Services General Fund non-personnel operating budget account in accordance with Schedule C of the attached Schedule of Transfer.

WHEREAS, there is an immediate need of $500,000 in the Department of Public Services, Division of City Facility Management, for HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) system improvements at the Cincinnati Police Academy located at Spinney Field as well as improvements to the Beekman Garage Roof; and

WHEREAS, currently, $500,000 is available in existing capital improvement program project account no. 712x233x262312, "Wall Stab. & Landslide Correction – CSR" which will not be needed until after July 1, 2026, and which funding is anticipated to be restored to the Wall Stabilization & Landslide Correction program in FY 2027; and

WHEREAS, there is an immediate need in the Division of Parking Facilities to conduct a curb space inventory study, and the Department of Transportation and Engineering is contributing $65,000 toward this study to benefit the public right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, reprogramming capital resources is in accordance with the "Sustain" goal to "[m]anage our financial resources" and strategy to "[s]pend public funds more strategically" as described on pages 199 and 202-204 of Plan Cincinnati (2012); now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That $565,000 is transferred and returned to source from various capital improvement program project accounts to decrease the funding allocated to those accounts, in accordance with Schedule A of the attached Schedule of Transfer.

Section 2. That $500,000 is transferred and appropriated from the unappropriated surplus of Railway Trust Infrastructure Fund 712 to an existing capital improvement program project account to provide resources for a certain capital improvement program project account, in accordance with Schedule B of the attached Schedule of Transfer.

Section 3. That $65,000 is transferred and appropriated from the unappropriated surplus of General Fund 050 to an Enterprise Services General Fund non-personnel operating budget account to implement changes to the FY 2026 General Fund Operating Budget, in accordance with Schedule C of the attached Schedule of Transfer.

Section 4. That the proper City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and proper to carry out the terms of Sections 1 through 3 and the attached Schedules of Transfer.

Section 5. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to make funding available in order to enter into any necessary agreements related to the curb space inventory study prior to the end of FY 2026.

Passed:_____, 2026

_____
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest:_____
Clerk

Schedule A.

That the amounts set forth hereinafter are hereby returned to source in the amount of $565,000.00 to the individual funds listed hereinafter:

DEPT. DIVISION	PROJECT OR FUND TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM NUMBER:	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT OR FUND TO BE TRANSFERRED TO NUMBER:	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL BUDGETED COST ALL FUNDS PRIOR	REVISED	AMOUNT TO BE APPROPRIATED OR TRANSFERRED
Transp. & Engineering Engineering 233	252312	Wall Stab. & Landslide Correction	050	General Fund	931,300.40	866,300.40	65,000.00
	262312 (CSRC)	Wall Stab. & Landslide Correction – CSR	712	Railway Trust Infrastructure Fund	790,000.00	290,000.00	500,000.00

Schedule B.

That the amounts set forth hereinafter totaling $500,000.00 are hereby transferred and appropriated to the individual project accounts for the improvements listed hereinafter:

DEPT. DIVISION	PROJECT OR FUND TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM NUMBER:	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT OR FUND TO BE TRANSFERRED TO NUMBER:	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL BUDGETED COST ALL FUNDS PRIOR	REVISED	AMOUNT TO BE APPROPRIATED OR TRANSFERRED
Public Services City Facility Mgt. 255	712	Railway Trust Infrastructure Fund	262501 (CSRC)	City Facility Renovation and Repairs - COT DM	2,190,000.00	2,690,000.00	500,000.00

SCHEDULE OF TRANSFER

SCHEDULE C. FY 2026 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

General Fund 050

REDUCTIONS	Fund	Agency	Appropriation Unit	$ Amount
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS				
SOURCE ACCOUNTS				
UNAPPROPRIATED SURPLUS	050			65,000
Subtotal Supplemental Appropriations				**65,000**
TOTAL FUND REDUCTIONS				**65,000**

INCREASES	Fund	Agency	Appropriation Unit	$ Amount
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS				
USE ACCOUNTS				
ENTERPRISE SERVICES				
PARKING FACILITIES	050	248	7200	65,000
Subtotal Supplemental Appropriations				**65,000**
TOTAL FUND INCREASES				**65,000**

city of CINCINNATI
Interdepartment Correspondence Sheet

April 1, 2026

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

202601195

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: **Ordinance – Health: American Heart Association (AHA) Ambulatory Quality Improvement Grant**

Attached is an Ordinance captioned:

> **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept and appropriate a grant of $2,000 from the American Heart Association to support the Cincinnati Health Department's participation in the Ambulatory Quality Improvement Program; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the grant funds into Public Health Research Fund revenue account no. 350x8571.

Approval of this Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to accept and appropriate a grant of $2,000 from the American Heart Association to support the Cincinnati Health Department's participation in the Ambulatory Quality Improvement Program. This Ordinance further authorizes the Finance Director to deposit the grant funds into Public Health Research Fund revenue account no. 350x8571.

Participation in the Ambulatory Quality Improvement Program will require the Cincinnati Health Department to attend meetings and submit data to the American Heart Association in support of research aimed at reducing death and disability caused by cardiovascular disease.

The City was offered the grant without the need to apply, but no grant funds will be accepted without approval by the City Council.

No additional FTEs/full time equivalents or local matching funds are required.

Accepting this grant is in accordance with the "Sustain" goal to "[b]ecome a healthier Cincinnati" as described on pages 181-191 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The Administration recommends passage of this Ordinance.

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

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Attachment

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-2026

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to accept and appropriate a grant of $2,000 from the American Heart Association to support the Cincinnati Health Department's participation in the Ambulatory Quality Improvement Program; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the grant funds into Public Health Research Fund revenue account no. 350x8571.

WHEREAS, a grant of $2,000 is available from the American Heart Association to support the Cincinnati Health Department's participation in its Ambulatory Quality Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, participation in the Ambulatory Quality Improvement Program will require the Cincinnati Health Department to attend meetings and submit data to the American Heart Association in support of research aimed at reducing death and disability caused by cardiovascular disease, including hypertension, diabetes, and high cholesterol; and

WHEREAS, the City was offered the grant without the need to apply, but no grant funds will be accepted without the approval of Council; and

WHEREAS, this grant does not require matching funds, and there are no new FTEs/full time equivalents associated with this grant; and

WHEREAS, accepting this grant is in accordance with the "Sustain" goal to "[b]ecome a healthier Cincinnati" as described on pages 181-191 of Plan Cincinnati (2012); now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the City Manager is authorized to accept and appropriate a grant of $2,000 from the American Heart Association to support the Cincinnati Health Department's participation in the Ambulatory Quality Improvement Program.

Section 2. That the Director of Finance is authorized to deposit the grant funds into Public Health Research Fund revenue account no. 350x8571.

Section 3. That the proper City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and proper to carry out the terms of the grant and Sections 1 and 2.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed:_____, 2026

_____
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest:_____
Clerk

city of CINCINNATI
Interdepartment Correspondence Sheet

April 1, 2026

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager 202601193

Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – Parks: In-Kind Donation for Camp Washington Miyawaki Forests**

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

> **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept an in-kind donation from Taking Root and the University of Cincinnati, valued at up to $40,000, consisting of land improvements on City-owned property in the Camp Washington neighborhood of Cincinnati.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to accept an in-kind donation from Taking Root and the University of Cincinnati, valued at up to $40,000, consisting of land improvements on City-owned property in the Camp Washington neighborhood.

To increase canopy coverage, reduce the urban heat island effect, and reduce exposure to air pollution, the Cincinnati Parks Department is partnering with Taking Root and the University of Cincinnati Field Center to install two Miyawaki-style forests on parcels of land in the Camp Washington neighborhood that are owned by the City and utilized by the Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) and the Department of Public Services (DPS). Miyawaki forests are dense, fast-growing micro-forests composed of biodiverse native plants and are particularly well suited for urban environments.

Upon completion of the installations, Taking Root and the University of Cincinnati Field Center will monitor and maintain the Miyawaki forests.

This in-kind donation does not require matching resources, and there are no FTEs/full time equivalents associated with this donation.

Enhancing canopy coverage, mitigating the urban heat island effect, and reducing air pollution in the Camp Washington neighborhood are in alignment 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 accept the in-kind donation before the project begins in mid-April 2026.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

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

Attachment

E M E R G E N C Y

IMD

- 2026

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to accept an in-kind donation from Taking Root and the University of Cincinnati, valued at up to $40,000, consisting of land improvements on City-owned property in the Camp Washington neighborhood of Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, in an effort to increase canopy coverage, reduce the urban heat island effect, and reduce exposure to air pollution, the Cincinnati Parks Department is partnering with Taking Root and the University of Cincinnati Field Center to install two Miyawaki-style forests on parcels of land in the Camp Washington neighborhood that are owned by the City and utilized by the Department of Transportation and Engineering and the Department of Public Services; and

WHEREAS, Miyawaki forests are dense, fast-growing micro-forests composed of biodiverse native plants and are particularly well suited for urban environments; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the installations, Taking Root and the University of Cincinnati Field Center will monitor and maintain the Miyawaki forests; and

WHEREAS, this in-kind donation does not require matching resources, and there are no FTEs/full time equivalents associated with this donation; and

WHEREAS, enhancing canopy coverage, mitigating the urban heat island effect, and reducing air pollution in the Camp Washington neighborhood are in alignment 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); now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the City Manager is authorized to accept an in-kind donation from Taking Root and the University of Cincinnati, valued at up to $40,000, consisting of land improvements on City-owned property in the Camp Washington neighborhood of Cincinnati.

Section 2. That the proper City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and proper to carry out the terms of Section 1.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms

of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept the in-kind donation before the project begins in mid-April 2026.

Passed:_____, 2026

_____
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest:_____
Clerk

city of CINCINNATI
Interdepartment Correspondence Sheet

April 1, 2026

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

202601197

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: **Emergency Ordinance – Recording Funds from State of Ohio Unclaimed Funds**

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

> **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept up to $11,056.91 from the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Unclaimed Funds to reimburse the City for unclaimed funds owed to the City; and **AUTHORZING** the Director of Finance to deposit unclaimed funds as follows (i) up to $81.92 in the unappropriated surplus of Parking System Facilities Fund 102, (ii) up to $639.72 in the unappropriated surplus of Community Health Center Activities Fund 395, and (iii) up to $10,335.27 in unappropriated surplus of General Fund 050.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to accept up to $11,056.91 from the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Unclaimed Funds to reimburse the City for unclaimed funds owed to the City. The Director of Finance is authorized to deposit unclaimed funds as follows (i) up to $81.92 in the unappropriated surplus of Parking System Facilities Fund 102, (ii) up to $639.72 in the unappropriated surplus of Community Health Center Activities Fund 395, and (iii) up to $10,335.27 in unappropriated surplus of General Fund 050.

The Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Unclaimed Funds holds and maintains unclaimed funds whose rightful owner cannot be located. The City discovered that ODC held unclaimed funds owed to the City totaling $11,056.91. The City requested and was awarded the unclaimed funds; however, no funds will be accepted without approval by Council. The City is in receipt of a check for the awarded unclaimed funds which will expire on April 23, 2026.

The Treasury Department made reasonable efforts to identify the original sources of all unclaimed funds and has successfully identified the original sources of some funds but has not been able to identify the original source of the remaining funds. In accordance with guidance from the Auditor of the State of Ohio, funds not identified for a specific purpose or source despite the exercise of reasonable efforts may be deposited into the general fund.

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept and deposit the unclaimed funds owed to the City before access to the funds expires.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: William "Billy" Weber, Assistant City Manager
Steve Webb, Director of Finance

E M E R G E N C Y

JWF

- 2026

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to accept up to $11,056.91 from the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Unclaimed Funds to reimburse the City for unclaimed funds owed to the City; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit unclaimed funds as follows: (i) up to $81.92 in the unappropriated surplus of Parking System Facilities Fund 102, (ii) up to $639.72 in the unappropriated surplus of Community Health Center Activities Fund 395, and (iii) up to $10,335.27 in the unappropriated surplus of General Fund 050.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Unclaimed Funds ("ODC") holds and maintains unclaimed funds whose rightful owner cannot be located; and

WHEREAS, the City discovered that ODC held unclaimed funds owed to the City totaling $11,056.91; and

WHEREAS, the City requested and was awarded the unclaimed funds, however no funds will be accepted without approval by Council; and

WHEREAS, the City is in receipt of a check for the awarded unclaimed funds which will expire on April 23, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Treasury Department exercised reasonable efforts to identify the original sources of all unclaimed funds, and has successfully identified the original sources of some funds, but has not been able to identify the original source of the remaining funds; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with guidance from the Auditor of the State of Ohio, funds not identified for a specific purpose or source despite the exercise of reasonable efforts may be deposited into the general fund; and

WHEREAS, the unclaimed funds are public funds and should be returned to their original source, or to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund, to be used for the benefit of the residents of the city of Cincinnati; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the City Manager is authorized to accept up to $11,056.91 from the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Unclaimed Funds to reimburse the City for unclaimed funds owed to the City.

Section 2. That the Director of Finance is authorized to deposit the unclaimed funds as follows: (i) up to $81.92 in the unappropriated surplus of Parking System Facilities Fund 102, (ii) up to $639.72 in the unappropriated surplus of Community Health Center Activities Fund 395, and (iii) up to $10,335.27 in the unappropriated surplus of General Fund 050.

Section 3. That the proper City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and proper to carry out the terms of Sections 1 and 2.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept and deposit the unclaimed funds owed to the City before access to the funds expires.

Passed:_____, 2026

_____
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest:_____
Clerk

City of Cincinnati

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2026012006

Seth Walsh
Councilmember

Budget Priorities for FY27 Recommended Budget

Councilmember Seth Walsh

This is the fourth budget I have considered as a member of Cincinnati City Council, and, no doubt the most challenging so far. In the face of an ever-changing federal and state landscape and the uncertain economic waters ahead, this Council and Mayor must make hard, thoughtful decisions to secure our city's future.

This does not mean that we can or should cut our way to prosperity. We can and should ensure that today's obligations are met while still protecting tomorrow's stability. It is critical to balance continued investment in what already makes our city great while also laying a strong foundation for the years to come.

We must be honest about our financial situation and stretch the dollars we have as far as we can. We cannot continue to start the year talking about deficits and cuts and end it with large surpluses that go mostly into filling reserves due to our conservative revenue projections. The needs are too great, and the moment is too important. This is not the way to a brighter future.

This is a defining moment for Cincinnati. The decisions we make pave the way for the growth and vibrancy we all want to see in the decades to come. We cannot shrink inward; we must lead with vision and invest with purpose. That is why in FY27, my budget priorities are as follows:

Safety and Basic Services

Public safety and basic services are the foundation of a great city. Excellence in basic city functions has an outsized positive impact on building a city where people choose to live, work, raise families, and grow their businesses. In FY27, we must continue to invest to ensure our neighborhoods are safe and clean:

Public Safety:

1. Increase the authorized strength of the Cincinnati Fire Department and invest appropriately to reach the necessary table of organization to reflect current staffing needs and significantly lower the mandatory overtime required of our firefighters.
2. Prioritize recruitment and retention of police officers, including lateral classes, to get the Cincinnati Police Department to full staffing.
3. Prioritize the deferred maintenance requests of our police and fire departments and utilize our bonding capacity to make necessary equipment and fleet replacements and facility upgrades.
4. Fund a hood and ANSUL system appropriate for a gas oven in Fire Station 50.
5. Fund the CPD Wellness Unit and CFD cancer screenings.
6. Allocate funds towards improving the design and equipment of UC Hospital's INO procedure room doubling the number of people that can receive this lung cancer treatment.
7. Restore funding to the violence prevention work of Whitney/Strong and Women Helping Women.

8. Invest in the Cincinnati Children's Hospital's vision voucher program.

Basic Services:

1. Prioritize the funding necessary to continue improving our snow and pothole response.
2. Repair all city-owned sidewalks.
3. Fund a second round of the residential sidewalk repair program.
4. Prioritize repair of city streets using Cincinnati Southern Railroad funding.

Internal City Investments:

1. No budget cuts to personnel, outside of vacancy savings
2. Ensure any budget cuts have no negative impact on public safety, basic services, and development.
3. Continue to ensure that all leveraged support fund awards are made in the budget, and that all funding awards are completed in time to meet pre-determined deadlines for outside matching funds.
4. Continue to increase our funding contribution to the pension.
5. Support capacity to ensure a successful launch of the Office of Strategic Growth.

A Growing Cincinnati

We cannot simply cut our way to a brighter future; we must grow into it. Cities that are not growing are dying. In FY27 we should make strategic, bold investments to catalyze growth and development in all our neighborhoods and build the Cincinnati of tomorrow:

Neighborhood Economic Development:

1. Combine and dramatically increase funding for the Quick Strike Acquisition Fund and the Catalytic Housing and Project Gap Filling into the Housing and Economic Development Reserve Fund as established in the FY25 Closeout Budget process. Funding should then be used as part of the Cincinnati Future Fund administered by Cincinnati Development Fund.
2. Provide funding to the Northside Gateway and Town Hall Flats projects to complete the financing structure and allow these critical neighborhood development projects to proceed.
3. Support programs from the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio including expanding and growing Building Futures to continue to grow and manage a strong, diverse workforce.
4. Provide capital support to Uptown Consortium.
5. Maintain CDC operating support, with priority to invest in and grow smaller or emerging CDCs.
6. Continue to collaborate with Metro on development of BRT and create an economic development strategy with Metro and other development partners for the future BRT corridors.

Neighborhood Vitality:

1. Consolidate the current neighborhood activation and development fund catalog and coordinate funding with CDF to amplify the efforts of the Cincinnati's Future Fund and catalyze vibrancy and growth in our neighborhoods.
2. Maintain and grow NSP and NBDIP funding.
3. Reserve money to upgrade City Hall into a destination for the city once again.
4. Invest in preservation of pre-existing affordable housing in neighborhoods through CDCs.

Vibrant Neighborhoods

Cincinnati is an incredible city due in large part to the work of our small businesses, arts and culture organizations, and major events. They are economic engines, reputation builders, and together create the

soul of our city. FY27 is the year to reinforce the human impact these organizations have, as well as the potential job creation and revenue generation that will seed our next decade of success:

Small Business Support:

1. Uncap any funding application for small business support.
2. Restore CincyTech, Cintrifuse, and REDI to FY25 levels and fund the African American Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Represent Cincy, and MORTAR to support small and startup business growth and expansion in Cincinnati.
3. Eliminate or offset fees for small businesses operating streeteries in the urban core.

Youth Employment and Engagement:

1. Invest in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cincinnati to support their GameChangers school-based mentoring program.
2. Invest in ArtWorks career pathways work.
3. Invest in the work of the Boys and Girls Club, particularly the building remodel and creation of the new Teen Center in Avondale.
4. Re-establish the Citizens' Committee on Youth.

Arts, Culture and Major Events:

1. Maintain capital and operating support of the arts and arts organizations.
2. Adjust the Playhouse in the Park lease to eliminate rent charges.
3. Invest in the necessary capital upgrades of city-owned facilities leased to not-for-profit organizations including the Cincinnati Museum Center, Music Hall, and Playhouse in the Park.
4. Maintain increased capital maintenance support for the Cincinnati Art Museum from FY26.
5. Invest in the Cincinnati Ballet's Mayerson Community Partnerships program.
6. Continue investing in Film Cincinnati at the previous level.
7. Continue investing in Visit Cincy at previous level.
8. Provide necessary support to BLINK.
9. Continue to support Asianati at previous levels.

Major Events and Civic Icons:

1. Continue investing in the Cincinnati Sports Commission at previous level.
2. Fund a Cincinnati Sports Commission study to examine our current sports facilities and what new facilities or upgrades are needed to attract major sporting events.
3. Provide ongoing capital support for the Cincinnati Sports Commission to leverage to make necessary upgrades for the city to land major sporting events.
4. Invest in an engineering study for the Purple People Bridge with Tri-State Trails to help ensure a sustainable future for a critical, iconic piece of pedestrian infrastructure in our urban core.
5. Provide $1,350,000 in capital funding to Findlay Market for their Findlay Forward projects.
6. Provide $8,000,000 to the Farmer Music Center as stated in the resolution passed by Council.
7. Invest $1,000,000 in the acquisition of the parking lot adjacent to the Shakespeare Company to help facilitate their theater expansion project.
8. Invest to commission a permanent mural on the Brighton Approach Bridge celebrating Over-The-Rhine and the West End to transform this new infrastructure into a civic icon.
9. Invest to transform the west-facing retaining walls of the subway on I-75 into a rotating street art corridor to prevent graffiti and showcase local artists on a rolling basis.

City of Cincinnati

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202601207

Scotty Johnson
Councilmember

Councilmember Scotty Johnson - BUDGET PRIORITIES
FY 2026-2027

EQUITY & INCLUSION

African American Chamber of Greater Cincinnati	$400,000
Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio	$350,000
Hispanic Chamber, Cincinnati-USA	$200,000
(Lev. Support) Women Helping Women	$100,000
(Lev. Support) Represent Cincy	$250,000

CAPITAL

Boys and Girls Club	$350,000
(Operating) Lighthouse & Youth Services	$150,000
Artsville	$250,000
(Operating) Young to Work	$1,000,000

LEVERAGED SUPPORT

LADD	$50,000
MORTAR (Economic Development)	$100,000
(Operating) Mobile Food Market	$250,000
(Operating) Advance Peace	$350,000
City Gospel Mission	$250,000
(Operating) Opportunity Dashboard	$25,000
Cincinnati Music Festival	$50,000
(Operating) Increase NSP Funds	$12,500
Center For Addiction Treatment	$150,000
Keep Cincinnati Beautiful	$250,000

202601208

Meeka D. Owens
Cincinnati City Councilmember

COMMUNICATION

Councilmember Meeka D. Owens Budget Priorities for FY2027

As the City Administration prepares the FY2027 Budget Update, it should aim for an equitable allocation of resources that meets community needs, ensuring that funds allocated are spent transparently with accountability, and move the City of Cincinnati further toward addressing the climate crisis through green investments. I submit the following policy guidelines and priorities, which focus broadly on the Council's top priorities and the responses that were presented in the City of Cincinnati Resident Survey provided by ETC Institute.

PUBLIC SAFETY

60.7% of FY26 operating dollars were spent on CPD and CFD, reflecting the priority that this council has on public safety. **Over the course of 2025, which spanned part of FY25 and FY26 we saw a 3.1% reduction in part one crime and an 18.1% reduction in shooting incidents compared to the year prior.** I ask that the administration take the following recommendations into consideration as we continue to ensure the strength of the men and women of CPD and CFD:

- Investments should be made to ensure that recruiting classes are properly funded, and that there are attractive salary ranges both for incoming cadets and lateral recruits. These investments should reflect the goal of achieving a full complement of both officers and firefighters.
    - An additional consideration should be to continue to support the understudy program to support younger residents to have easier access to city service.
- To address the issue that has been labeled the **"revolving door of justice"**, I ask that there be funding provided for CPD and all other relevant departments to receive training on how to request no bond request for violent and repeat offenders.
- To further address the public health crisis of gun violence and public safety as a whole, additional funding should be supplied to prevention efforts, including but not limited to, the **Victims Liaison Unit, the Violence Reduction Team, members of the Hope and Sheild Network, and other teams** that provided resources and education to those at risk of experiencing gun violence and those who are victims of gun violence.
    - Additionally, programs that ensure looking towards preventative efforts that aim to provide safer and stronger communication with the children in our city. This

means continuing and expanding programs with external partners of CPD, CFD and others, like DVERT, that primarily serve our young populations.

- There should be a priority placed on ensuring all turnout gear for the Fire Department are within their life cycle and are capable of being replaced in a timely manner. Under federal standards set in NFPA, there are requirements that must be met through this turnout gear. So, we must create a stronger strategy to ensure that members of CFD are in properly **fitted turnout gear**, and we are in compliance with NFPA.
- To address staffing issues within our public safety departments, I ask that through this budget process there be a document provided to the Council **outlining the costs of CFD and CPD staffing during training academies**. Additionally, that there be a concerted investment to address **outdated staffing tables** within both departments. It has been brought to my office's attention that we might have issues with staffing pockets of the city with proper resources due to needs at the training academies. We need to understand the plan for ensure proper service delivery while providing the top education to our police and fire cadets.
- Our local businesses have been affected by the ebbs and flows in public safety more than just about anyone. It affects their bottom lines, their staff's morale, and the health of their communities. Therefore, I ask that the city administration take steps to **assist local businesses with getting enrolled in the City's FUSUS program** to expand the local camera network. We should look to expand enrollment in the FUSUS program by 1,000 cameras during FY27. A possible source should be the $1m earmark from Congressman Landsman.
- Additionally, there must be investments in technologies that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Cincinnati Police and Fire Departments. This includes expanding the Drone Program, improving technologies within public safety fleet, and other identified areas.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

During 2025, the City of Cincinnati saw a **positive net change in total housing units coming to the total of 1,280 units**. The City of Cincinnati also continued their investments into the Affordable Housing Leveraged Fund which sees a **leverage capacity of 13:1**. These units are ensured to bring opportunities to those who are 60-80% AMI or lower. But there is more work to be done in building up and maintaining our housing stock and ensuring the strengthen of our 52 neighborhoods, so I ask the administration to consider the following recommendations:

- Investments to the **Affordable Housing Leverage Fund** should be continued to ensure the creation of units that are accessible to those **at and below 60-80% AMI** within the City of Cincinnati.
- **Continue and expand funding for the Access to Counsel ecosystem.** Since the passage of the FY26/27 budget the City of Cincinnati has been made aware through a report

completed by STOUT that there is a **$2.50-$4.30 for every dollar** that is invested into this ecosystem.

  - To simply have enough rental assistance to accommodate the capacity that the ecosystem currently can hold would require a $1.7m investment. **Additionally, there are program services and legal representation costs associated with the program, meaning an investment of nearly $2.5m** would be needed for all partners to function at full capacity without inflicting rental assistance. I ask that this be a consideration when considering investment in Access to Counsel.

- While the creation of new housing units is needed, the existing housing stock within the City of Cincinnati should not be forgotten. Therefore, I ask that investments be made to continue and expand the capacity of the city's **HARBOR program**. And to work towards expanding and enshrining further resources to protect and improve the quality of our afford and market rate housing stock through the creation of a **rental improvement fund**.
- Ensure that through investments made into the community that **the priorities of the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan** are properly reflected. This includes investments to reduce the effects of the urban heat island, increase air quality, increase tree canopy, reduce impervious surfaces, and more. Investments now save jurisdictions on public health costs in the long run.
- Incentives packages should be prioritized for economic development projects that are **revenue producing for the city**. This included reducing barrier to development for both large and small firms that helped to increase the populations and other revenues within Cincinnati. **Examples would be projects that could increase the city's annual admissions (ticket) tax revenue or additional housing units to increase the earning tax revenues.**
- The power of grassroots organizations in our communities cannot be overstated, and the support that the city provides makes these organizations and their outcomes stronger. Therefore, I ask that we continue that the following grant programs receive continued support: **Safe and Clean, Boots on the Ground, Seeds of Change, and others.**

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES

There are over **400 enterprises registered as certified vendors with the City of Cincinnati, ranging from minority owned to woman owned and more.** These businesses assist the city with ensuring stronger economic opportunities for those in our community who haven't seen economic support in the past. Additionally, there are dozens of human services organizations who support and uplift residents in some of their darkest time, most of the funded through our Human Service Fund and Leveraged Support. Therefore, I ask that the administration consider the following:

- In maintaining this Council's **good government initiatives**, organizations who are seeking operating funding from Leveraged Support who did not go through the

application process should not be recommended for funding or allocated funds. Unless, actively under contract with the city for other purposes.

- Through Leveraged Support, there should be a concerted effort to understand the **leveraging capacity of city dollars over previous awards during the application process**. City dollars should not be a stop gap for organizations but rather a measure for organizations to grow beyond that funding. There should be a priority placed onto organizations that have a **proven track record** of leveraging city funds to acquire funding from other sources.
- Additionally, there should be a focus on investments from Leveraged Support that go upstream and focus on prevention. This would include programs that are built from city programs like those supported through Women Helping Women.
- Maintain and expand funding for the Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program (NBDIP) and place an importance on **placemaking and safety measures**.
- Enshrine investments in programs and organizations who can aid in achieving the goals of the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan, **specifically, the goal of creating 4,000 green jobs by the end of the decade**.
- In an effort to better support our small business across the city, I ask that we continue, and if possible, increase, the **Commercial Tenant Improvement Program (CTIP)**, the Pop-Up Shop Program (OurShop) and the MicroCity Loan Program to support our local businesses. Additionally, support investments for FlyWheel as they search for innovative solutions to many of the city's problems.

SERVICE DELIVERY AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

In 2025, the City of Cincinnati had **over 146,000 requests for service, with 65% of those being closed by their due date**. This mark has regressed from previous years and needs to be improved as part of the FY27 budget. The projected 5.1% cut to the operating budget is not easy to navigate and I believe that there are additional revenue sources that could be considered as we work to address that gap. Additionally, in January of 2024, an Internal Audit was complete on the city's ability to **purchase and replace vehicles**. It was discovered that of the **1,495 vehicles** owned by the city, **685 of these were out-of-lifecycle (45.8%)**. It was projected that there would need to be an investment of **over $82m to address those 685 vehicles**, fleet will remain a capital issue and reduce our service delivery capacity if we cannot address the issue. Therefore, I ask the administration to consider the following recommendations related to service delivery and fiscal sustainability:

- I ask that the administration look at all fees, permits, and registries to understand sites of additional revenues to reduce the effect of present and future operating deficits.
- **As discussed during the FY25 carryover process, I would ask that the percentages of our reserves be returned to 16.7% and to be calculated off of expenditures rather**

than revenues. These changes would result in more dollars to be kept out of reserves and to be spent on service delivery.

- There should be focus placed reducing the issues of out-of-lifecycle fleet, as referenced in the 2024 Internal Audit. There should be a larger investment made during FY27 and the creation of a plan, with funding, that works to reduce the out-of-life cycle fleet below 10%. Additionally, looking at possible present and future state and federal incentives that could work to address the issue of public safety fleet.
- I ask that the FY27 operating and capital budget be balanced and not project any deficit spending.
- I ask that there be proper resources provided to the Office of Grant Administration to properly apply for state and federal grants to assist the City of Cincinnati in accomplishing outcomes for residents.
- I ask that there be a concerted effort **on improving processes to execute the Cincy on Track plan** and that those dollars are not only encumbered but are spent in a timely and effective way.
- Investments or **realignments in FTEs should reflect the services that residents want to see**, as mentioned in the resident's survey completed in 2025.
- City Administration should consider investments in software's that improve productivity and efficiency in government. There should also be an effort placed into ensuring that the City of Cincinnati **by the end of FY27 has a responsible Artificial Intelligence policy**. Therefore, I request that the administration provide funding to ensure that City employees have the option to use the premium version of Microsoft CoPilot and other assistive AI programs.
- To provide stronger access to summertime childcare and options for young people, I ask that the administration look to **provide free or subsidize summer camp programing through CRC to 125 families during the summer of 2027**.
    - *The focus of these free or subsidized spots should for families who don't have access to vouchers, who are **at or below 60-80% AMI**, and are in communities with higher levels of gun violence.*

Meeka D. Owens

Councilmember Meeka D. Owens

4/2/2026

AD

Budget and Finance

City of Cincinnati

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202601209

Mark Jeffreys
Councilmember

April 6th, 2026

MEMORANDUM

Budget Policy Direction to City Administration for Recommended FY2027 Budget

Overall budget priority: Efficiency. The City Manager has asked each department to identify potential cuts of 5.1% of their budget and the impact of those cuts. We should all challenge ourselves to deliver efficiencies without any reduction in services. NYC has done that same exercise and identified efficiencies worth 1.5% of their budget (our deficit is ~1.7% of our budget). If other cities can do it then we can too. We can and should start there to ensure our government is the most efficient possible.

Operating Budget Priorities

Recurring Operating Budget Priorities:

- Continued investment and implementation of ACT for Cincy:
  - Necessary recruit classes to achieve authorized strength for police & fire
  - Safe and Clean Fund
  - Boots on the Ground Fund
  - Continue funding Human Services with 1.5% of the city's General Fund
  - Alternative Response Program
- Fund the city's pension contribution at 19.25%.
- Direct 45% of the cannabis revenue toward lead abatement programs that protect children under six from lead poisoning–the most vulnerable to irreversible health effects, allocate 10% towards expunging marijuana citation records & 45% funding for CCY via restricted fund that can generate additional philanthropic investments.
- Invest in making Keep Cincinnati Beautiful's Bulk Item Drop off year-round, which has reduced illegal dumping at hot spots by 35%.
- Allocate $150K to Cintrifuse, $150K to Cincytech, and $100K to MORTAR.

Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget Priorities:

- Allocate $210K to fund a joint program with City Gospel Mission and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful for a Neighborhood Job Van initiative– to provide those panhandling with a job cleaning up litter in our city neighborhoods outside Downtown & OTR.
- Continue to invest $150K Red Bike's "Strengthen and Sustain" plan (as agreed to in Resolution #202500235).
- Allocate $88K to expand Traffic Aide Worker Crew to help ongoing efforts to repair/replace parking infrastructure in a timely manner and generate additional revenue.

Capital Budget Priorities

Recurring Capital Budget Priorities:

- Cincy on Track
    - Fund Street Rehabilitation to the maximum possible with capacity constraints internally and with contractors (~$30M-$35M) to ensure we pave additional lane miles and advance the Complete Streets policy including pedestrian safety elements.
    - Fund new fire stations for outdated facilities followed by other capital project priorities e.g. Parks, Rec, Health Centers, etc.
- Invest in City Fleet replacements .
- Invest in community development through the Quick Strike Acquisition Fund.

Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget Priorities:

- $191K for acquisition of land for Wasson Way Connection from Ohio River Trail to Otto Armleder Memorial Park and a portion of land in South Cumminsville, an important connection to help complete the CROWN.
- **TIF Allocation:**
    - Findlay Market - $1.3M for a City of Cincinnati-owned asset as part of 3-year commitment.
    - Over-the-Rhine Museum: Restoration and building improvements made to the property they purchased at 3 West McMicken Avenue ($250K).
    - Artsville: $250K in improvements made to the facility in Madisonville (city-owned asset).

Opportunities for Revenue and Cost Recovery:

Vacant Building Registry:

- Continue to expand the Building Inspector Training Academy and fund inspectors for enforcement of the Vacant Building Registry - fees are projected to cover 100%+ funding needed in Year 1 of the program and subsequent years.

Optimize Parking Revenue:

- Fund parking footprint study to determine opportunities to expand revenue via expanding Paid Parking Zones while effectively managing heavily trafficked areas.
- Increase parking revenues via new enforcement officers and enforcement outside of the urban basin.

Implement Fees for Certain Services:

- "You break it, you pay for it" Repair Responsibility–in partnership with City Council and CPD, recovering costs to public infrastructure damaged from reckless drivers' insurance company. Negligent and reckless behavior that harms public infrastructure, such as streetlights, railings, and other city property, costs the city millions and should not be a cost the city has to bear. Other cities have this type of policy in place.
- Charge higher fees for non-city residents for certain city services: (e.g. parks/rec rentals, summer camps, golf fees and other public use fees) similar to other entities that charge out-of-city users a higher rate. For instance, Great Parks of Hamilton County charges higher rates for non-Hamilton County residents.

Futures Commission Recommendations:

- Cincinnati Parks/Cincinnati Recreation Commission: Have the Cincinnati Parks Department take over management of much of 954 acres of greenspace currently overseen by CRC, which they indicated would yield an estimated $25M in savings over ten years.
- Cincinnati Parks/Great Parks: As recommended in the Futures Commission and put forward in a motion last session, Cincinnati Parks should explore a partnership with Great Parks of Hamilton County to share management of Mt. Airy Forest, French Park and other parks/trails, which could save the city an estimated $9.5M over ten years.

Get Reimbursed from the State of Ohio for Doing Work They do for Other Municipalities:

- Responding to crashes & investigating them on interstates: Pursue reimbursement from Ohio Highway Patrol for responding to & investigating crashes as well as traffic enforcement on Interstates within the city limits. OHHP handles these functions in rural

and suburban jurisdictions throughout the state. This represents millions of $ to the City of Cincinnati.

- Reimbursement for snow removal: Pursue reimbursement from ODOT for snow removal on State Routes that run through the City of Cincinnati. ODOT clears snow and ice on State Routes in rural and suburban communities at no cost. It's not fair that Cincinnati has to pay for it.
- More reimbursement for litter clean up on state routes: Advocate for ODOT to reimburse the City of Cincinnati for litter clean-up on State Routes more than once per year. Currently, only annual reimbursement is provided on some routes, despite ongoing litter management needs on State Routes like Route 50. Request reimbursement 4x per year which will help ensure the State Routes are cleaned. ODOT does litter removal on state routes in other parts of the state. It's only fair that this cost is covered.

Mark Jeffreys

Councilmember Mark Jeffreys

ZF

ZB

City of Cincinnati

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Evan Nolan
Councilmember

04/02/2026

Councilmember Evan Nolan Budget Priorities for FY27 Recommended Budget Update

To maintain and enhance our city's path to more equitable and sustainable growth, we must further invest in our neighborhoods and our neighbors, specifically our youth, by providing the necessary resources for proper workforce and workplace development. By growing our tax base and expanding economic opportunities, we can empower our residents and ensure long-term, sustained growth for all of Cincinnati. The following considerations should be top priorities for the FY27 City Budget Update:

Capital Budget:

- An expedited process for more effective deployment of **Cincy on Track** funds.

- Assessing and restructuring the existing housing and economic development tools and funding sources, including those listed below, into a more consolidated and flexible structure under management of the City's new Office of Strategic Growth and in partnership with Cincinnati Development Fund:
    - Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIF Districts)
    - Voluntary Tax Incentive Contribution Agreement Program (VTICA)
    - Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program (NBDIP)
    - Neighborhood Business District Support Fund
    - Neighborhood Catalytic Capital Improvement Program (NCCIP)
    - Catalytic Neighborhood Futures Fund
    - Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)
    - "Quick Strike" Acquisition & Project Funding
    - Affordable Housing Leverage Fund

- Such restructured tools and funding should create more efficient access and greater availability to our development partners, including community development corporations and other neighborhood organizations, to activate economic development and new housing in neighborhoods across the city in support of the following areas:
    - Neighborhood Business Districts
    - Affordable Housing, specifically the Affordable Housing Leverage Fund
    - Preserving and creating more homeownership and closing the home ownership gap

- Low-income areas
- Where development is not naturally occurring without public subsidy
- Where there are no TIF Districts or VTICA funds or
- Where TIF Districts or VTICAs are not producing sufficient revenue
- Along major transit corridors
- Across the life cycle of a development project from site acquisition and pre-development costs through gap financing, completed construction, and ongoing stabilization
- Nonprofit capital expenditures
- Projects with revenue-enhancing returns, such as the Farmer's Music Center project

Operating Budget:

- Funding to ensure adequate staffing and proper resources for the necessary programs in the **Office of Strategic Growth**.

- Alignment of appropriate resources to fully fund the **Department of Opportunity & Resident Services**.

- Necessary funding for the **Department of City Planning and Engagement** to sustainably fund the neighborhood planning cycle.

- Continued implementation of competitive pay schedules in the **Law Department** to retain and attract talent.

- Providing initial investment to launch the Vacant Building Registry in the **Department of Buildings and Inspections**.

- Continued and expanded implementation of ***Cincinnati Financial Freedom Blueprint*** recommendations, such as the Child Savings Accounts program and Access to Counsel.

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202601227

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
Vice Mayor

April 2, 2026

Memo for Proposed Budget Priorities for FY '27

WE recommend the following budget priorities that will allow our youth and adults to not only survive, but thrive. The attached list includes transformative initiatives for youth, workforce development for youth and adults, pathways to eliminate gun violence, repairing of damage from past systemic discrimination, increasing homeownership and wealth building, resources for the Department of Opportunity and Resident Services (DOORS), support for events that build a sense of community and cohesion across our city, and resources to catalyze development and city growth. *See* Attachment A.

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

_____
Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

BUDGET REQUESTS
FY 2027

Priority	Organization	Amount requested	C/O*	Purpose
Youth				
	Cincinnati Youth Employment	$ 1,000,000.00	O	Phase 1 of recreating CCY (rebranded as *Cincinnati* Committee on Youth): Increase Cincinnati's capacity to include year-round jobs for youth as well as workshops on skill building, financial literacy, post-high school planning, conflict resolution, healthy habits, etc. *Citizens* Committee on Youth ran for 50 years and ended in 2007. In addition to additional funding for youth jobs, City willl work with the business community to secure youth jobs outside of City Hall. Phase 2 in the rebirth of CCY will be to add mentorships through "We Mentor Cincy (led by the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative), the Divine 9, and others.
	Boys and Girls Club	$ 350,000.00	C	Renovate and Create Teen Center Avondale
	Youth Sports Commission	TBD	O	An over-arching commission with voluntary membership that would train coaches and provide education for families about de-escalation, conflict resolution, code of conduct; provide supplemental funds for sports gear; help w/ finding and funding playing fields
	KidFuture CPS (Formerly Activities BEYOND THE CLASSROOM/ABC)	$ 400,000.00	O	CPS Afterschol programming. Funds needed for : search platform for parents and youth to find programs; expansion of grantwiritng capacity, marketing for corporate funding
	Wesley Chapel Mission (Janine Shelborne)	$ 574,580.00	O	Personnel for youth programming: 4 f/tdirectors, 9 p/t teachers, 3 f/t coordinators to service and Discovery Trips to venues such as the Zoo, Indianapolis Children's Museum, Cincinnati Children's Museum, and Kings Island.
	Expansion of "Rec at Night" to afterschool rec pilot program at Hughes High School	$ 500,000.00	O	Joint project with City Council and CPS
	Lighthouse Youth Services	$ 150,000.00	O	Outreach/ Prevention team, Sheakley Center
	Women Helping Women	$ 100,000.00	O	Violence Prevention Education in 15 schools; 2024-25: Served 986 students
Workforce Development				
	Hispanic Chamber	$ 200,000.00	O	Small Business suport

BUDGET REQUESTS
FY 2027

Priority	Organization	Amount requested	C/O*	Purpose
	MidWest Con	$ 100,000.00		Conference and connectors with AI workforce development strategies
	Small Business Fund		O	Help small businesses to curvive and thrive with services similar to the GROW AVONDALE Program developed by LISC in October 2025.
	Npower Tech Training	$ 99,000.00	O	Partner w/ Microsoft, Google & other tech companies; free training & certification for High School grads; result: high-paying jobs in tech field. Started in NY, spread to Texas and elsewhere; currently officew in Dayton, OH. Want to open office in Cincinncati.
	CincyTech	$ 250,000.00	C	State matches city's investmant to create more tech jobs.
	MORTAR	$ 50,000.00	O	"Ongoing Excellence": Job readiness, entrepreneurship; Ecoomic Dev.
	Represent513 (for small businesses in OTR)	$ 250,000.00	O	Jasmine Coaston's Assistance for OTR Small Businesses. Subject Matter Expert (SME) coaching for small businesses (NOTE: Grants of up to $10K go to businesses from capital accts)
	Black Art Speaks	$ 150,000.00		Jobs for artists
	Expungement Clinics	$ 400,000.00	O	Urban League ($300,000); City w/ OJPC, Office of Re-Entry, Ham. Co. Library ($100,000)
	Building Futures	$ 300,000.00	O	Urban League and Building Trades' 12-week appreticeship program funding for two additional co-horts of 25 individuals per class to lead to good-paying union jobs in the trades
	City Gospel Mission	$ 250,000.00	C	Van for Workers Who are Living on the Streets. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and City Gospel Mission partner to pick up unhoused people, give them public services-type work, and pay them.
Eliminating Gun Violence				
	CincySafe Community Violence Intervention Program	$ 375,000.00		Cincinnati-based program modeled on Advance Peace, a proven, data-driven model that has significanlty reduced gun violence in neighborhods across the country for more than 10 years.

BUDGET REQUESTS
FY 2027

Priority	Organization	Amount requested	C/O*	Purpose
	Boots on the Ground	$ 500,000.00	O	Fund for start-up businesses to address violence and other community needs for a maximium amount of $25,000 per group. The Greater Cincinnati Foundation raises additional funds for BOTG and assists small organizations in applying for non-profit status.
	Safe & Clean Fund	$ 500,000.00	O	Fund for organizations that target blight and violence is managed by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful. There is no cap, but distributions tend to be $70,000 or less.
	Whitney Strong	$ 50,000.00	O	Stop the Bleed Program: crisis training, distribution of gunlocks, distribution of medical supplies, and other services.
Homeownership/Wealth Building				
	Cincinnati Real Estate Reparations Program (RERP) - home repairs, homeownership, residential and commercial purchasing help, delinquent property tax help	$ 5,000,000.00	C	Home repairs, homeownership, residential and copmmercial purchasing help, delinquent property taxes (*HomeSafe Program reboot), See* Memo
Dept. of Opportunity and Resident Services (DOORS)				
	Mobile Market (Office of Opportun)	$ 260,000.00	C	Model in Lexington partners w/ Kroger & a non-profit to go to various food deserts on the same schedule every week. Could add neighborhood farmer's markets in good weather.
	NSP increase: $12,000/community council (increase from $10K)	$ 681,000.00	O	Insurance costs and prgramming costs have increased; many have started or are trying to start a youth council
	Invest in Neighborhoods	$ 100,000.00	O	Personnel (2 hires to create staff of 3)
	Opportunity Dashboard for Office of Opportunity/DORS	$ 25,000.00	O	
	Buy the Building, Vacant to Vibrant, Community Investment Trusts	TBD	C	Three recommended programs from VM Kearney's Office

BUDGET REQUESTS
FY 2027

Priority	Organization	Amount requested	C/O*	Purpose
Special Events				
	LADD	$ 50,000.00	O	Disability Pride Month activites
	Cincinnati Music Festival	$ 50,000.00	O	CMF has an annual economic impact of more than $107 million. 85% of attendees are tourists. Additional revenue would provide capacity for more A-List artists to increase attendance, and therefore, revenue for the City.
	Unity Fund	$ 100,000.00	O	Community Building/Neighborhood events by small groups and/or community councils
Capital Projects				
	8K for Town Hall Flats (Westwood)	$ 2,500,000.00	C	
	Imperial Theatre	$ 500,000.00		Development of central structure to start growth and development of Mohawk neighborhood
	ArtsVille	$ 250,000.00	C	Renovations
	Playhouse in the Park	$ 380,000.00	C	$200K for new roof and HVAC for Shelterhouse Theatre; $180K for Production Facility Building on Gilbert Avenue (HVAC & parking lot paving)
	Pig Works	$ 1,000,000.00	C	For their Campus in Walnut Hills; New headquarters for Flying Pig Marathon, scholarships, other races and programs
	Buy the Building, Vacant to Vibrant, Community Investment Trusts	TBD	C	Three recommended programs from VM Kearney's Office
Other Requests				
	Center for Addiction Treatment (CAT HOuse)	$ 125,000.00	O	Operating funds needed.
***C/O = Capital or Operating Funds**				

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Anna Albi
Councilmember

202601232

April 2, 2026

Councilmember Anna Albi Budget Policy Motion for FY27 Budget

Cincinnati stands at a pivotal moment of opportunity and growth. As revitalization continues across our city, we are seeing momentum in our neighborhoods and business districts as well as national recognition for our parks, arts and cultural institutions. This moment presents a responsibility to care holistically for our communities and to ensure all residents thrive. Taking an equitable, data-informed, and human-centric approach to the budget allows us to focus on the fundamentals while shaping the kind of city Cincinnati will be for future generations.

At the same time we are developing this budget, the City faces deep uncertainty and strong headwinds. We are being asked to do more with limited resources, while facing budget constraints, increased state and federal preemption, and broader economic and geopolitical fallout that continues to impact the cost of living for our communities. These challenges require us to be strategic in how we allocate resources, prioritize investments, and partner with organizations to deliver services effectively and efficiently. Our budget must reflect not only our ambitions for growth, but also our responsibility to care for the people who call Cincinnati home.

Operating:

- Increase funding for the ACT for Cincy violence reduction portfolio and action teams, including supporting community partners and initiatives aligned to the action teams.
- Maintain funding for the Police Department's Victim Assistance Liaison Unit and the Emergency Communication Center's Alternative Response to Crisis (ARC) and Community Responders teams.
- Maintain funding for the Boots on the Ground and Safe and Clean grant programs.
- Increase funding for the award-winning Rec @ Nite program to expand to two additional locations; and establish a pilot to provide Rec @ Nite programming as an onsite afterschool offering in collaboration with Cincinnati Public Schools.
- Maintain funding for Community Councils and Community Budget Requests (CBRs).
- Maintain funding for Career Pathways and Youth to Work (Y2W) and continue support for external workforce development programs.
- Establish an emergency immigration relief fund.
- Prioritize funding for community organizations providing emergency food access, homelessness prevention, youth support and gun violence prevention.

Capital:

- Maintain funding for the Affordable Housing Leveraged Fund through the Cincinnati Development Fund with emphasis on development projects aimed at 60 AMI and below.
- Streamline and simplify the process for community-led, catalytic developments to receive City funding.
- Increase the proportion of Cincy on Track funding directed towards road repair and repaving.
- Extend the residential sidewalk repair program to a new eligible neighborhood(s) and prioritize repairing City-owned sidewalks.
- Fund arts and cultural institutions, including exploring re-establishing an arts capital fund and fulfilling the City's commitments to the Cincinnati Symphany Orchestra, Findlay Market, and City-owned cultural assets.
- Fund the installation of additional lights and cameras inside City-owned parks, playgrounds, and recreational areas.
- Maintain funding for pedestrian safety and traffic calming improvements.
- Deploy existing capital funding for minority-owned businesses through Represent Cincy.

Anna Albi

Councilmember Anna Albi

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Ryan James
Councilmember

Helping People Get Ahead

I stepped into this role with a strong call to action: to increase affordability for our cost-burdened residents so they can not only survive; they can thrive. This past year Cincinnati has experienced a renaissance in population growth, and sustaining this expansion must happen hand in hand with the residents who make this city what it is. To do this, we have to foster a landscape where culture, safety, and success can be felt from the East Side to the West End. That work begins with creative solutions to improve the everyday realities facing our residents; and today, too many families are being asked to do too much with too little, making that goal hard to reach.

Across our city, the cost of housing continues to rise faster than income, leaving working families increasingly vulnerable to displacement and financial instability. Preventable evictions, aging homes in need of repair, and limited pathways to homeownership are placing long-term security out of reach for too many. Just as critically, many residents feel disconnected from one another and from the systems meant to serve them. A lack of shared community spaces, uneven investment across neighborhoods, and persistent trust gaps have contributed to a sense that growth is happening without broad inclusion. Longtime residents worry about being left behind or pushed out, while too many voices remain unheard in the decisions shaping their communities.

This budget proposal is grounded in a clear set of priorities: keeping families in their homes, expanding access to economic opportunities, and fostering a deeper sense of belonging across every neighborhood. By addressing these challenges with targeted, proactive investments, we can build a Cincinnati where stability, opportunity, and community are not privileges for some, but guaranteed.

Operating Budget Priorities

Public Safety and Prevention (Top Priority)

As we head into the summer months, we see predictable increases in public safety needs across our city. This budget must reflect that reality by ensuring we are fully prepared to respond, prevent, and protect our communities.

- Do not cut the budgets of police and fire services, and ensure they remain fully resourced to meet increased seasonal demand
- Invest in crime prevention strategies that address root causes and reduce violence before it happens
- Increase investment in police and fire compensation to remain competitive and keep pace with inflation
- Expand support for youth engagement and intervention programs
- Strengthen coordination between public safety and community-based partners

Affordability and Cost of Living Relief

- Establish a $1 million Affordability Fund to reduce cost-of-living burdens and safeguard support funds for residents when they need them most
- Offset city-induced fees and fines, including parking tickets
- Address rising energy and household costs

Expanding Access Through D.O.O.R.S.

- Expand the Department of Opportunities and Resident Services (DOORS)
- Fund a Care Coordination Team to identify resident needs and connect residents to services
- Build toward a system where one call connects residents to help

Workforce Development and Economic Mobility

- Increase investment in workforce development programs
- Strengthen partnerships with Cincinnati Works, ArtWorks, and the Boys and Girls Club Workforce Development Center
- Expand access to training, job placement, and career pathways

Supporting Small Businesses, Entrepreneurs, and Regional Growth

- Invest in the entrepreneurship ecosystem, including Represent Cincy, African American Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, StartupCincy, and Cincy Tech
- Strengthen partnership with REDI Cincinnati to support job attraction and business growth
- Support catalytic events, including collaboration with the Cincinnati Sports Commission, Cincinnati Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Visit Cincy to drive tourism and economic activity
- Expand access to capital, technical assistance, and business support

Neighborhood and Community Activation

- Increase Neighborhood Support Funds from $10,000 to $12,000 annually
- Dedicate $100,000 for neighborhood-based events
- Cap events at $5,000 each and ensure access for neighborhood councils, churches, and small businesses
- Prioritize free, inclusive, and well-marketed community gatherings

Capital Budget Priorities

Long-term investments in infrastructure, facilities, and physical assets.

Public Safety Infrastructure

- Invest in modernizing fleet vehicles for police and fire to ensure reliable emergency response
- Invest in faster sidewalk repair and pothole filling

Affordable Housing and Strategic Growth

- Adequately fund the Department of Strategic Growth to accelerate affordable housing development
- Expand the economic development budget to support housing production, mixed-income development, and neighborhood revitalization
- Invest in projects that deliver long-term affordability and increase housing supply

Neighborhood and Community Infrastructure

- Invest in neighborhood business districts and local corridors
- Support development of more third spaces that foster connection and community without significant cost-barriers to entry
- Strengthen infrastructure that supports safe and connected neighborhoods

city of CINCINNATI
Interdepartment Correspondence Sheet

April 6, 2026

To: Members of the Budget, Finance & Governance Committee

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: **Presentation – Department of City Planning and Engagement (CPE) Budget Presentation**

Attached is the Department of City Planning and Engagement (CPE) Budget Presentation for the Budget, Finance & Governance Committee Meeting on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 1:00 PM.

cc: William "Billy" Weber, Assistant City Manager
John Brazina, Assistant City Manager
Cathy B. Bailey, Interim Assistant City Manager

City Planning and Engagement

Budget, Finance & Governance Committee

April 6, 2026

city of CINCINNATI

Agenda

- Mission Statement and Services
- Budget and FTE History
- FY26 Performance Agreement
- FY26 Performance Measures
- FY27 Proposed Performance Agreement Measures
- FY27 Budget Reduction Impact on Performance
- Other Service Delivery Challenges
- Accomplishments

Mission Statement and Services

Through community engagement; zoning and subdivision regulations, and historic conservation guidelines; and creative planning principles, as a nationwide model City Planning and Engagement guides land use to create a vital city and thriving urban core.

- Community Engagement Policy Training and Facilitation
- Charter and Zoning Code Defined Responsibilities of City Planning Commission
- Zoning Studies and Amendments
- Subdivisions
- Long Range Planning
- Pre-Development Guidance
- Permit Review and Support
- Zoning Hearing Review and Recommendations
- Zoning Compliance Review
- Environmental Review
- Mapping and Data Support

Budget and FTE History

City Planning and Engagement General Fund	FY 2022	*FY 2022 w/ Zoning Adj.	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Personnel Compensation	362,690	731,450	977,700	1,184,040	1,344,830	1,445,080
Fringe Benefits	138,550	368,550	344,700	331,680	439,830	477,270
Non-Personnel Expenses	40,580	50,680	81,220	84,370	340,110	193,520
General Fund Total	**541,820**	**1,150,680**	**1,403,620**	**1,600,090**	**2,124,770**	**2,115,870**

City Planning and Engagement - FTEs by Agency	FY 2022	*FY 2022 w/ Zoning Adj.	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
	10.00	16.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	19.00

* In October 2021, the Zoning Administration function transferred from the Department of Buildings & Inspections to the Department of City Planning & Engagement.

FY26 Performance Agreement

City Goal	Service	Performance Goal
Thriving Neighborhoods	Permit Review & Support	90% of plan reviews are completed in 10 business days for residential permits
		90% of plan reviews are completed in 15 business days for commercial permits
	Zoning Hearing Review & Recommendations	90% of HCB Reports transmitted to Law 4 business days before the hearing
	Subdivisions	90% of major subdivisions reviewed within 30 days
		90% of minor subdivisions reviewed within 30 days
	Zoning Studies & Amendments	90% of zoning studies/amendments are completed within 6 months for the zone change applications or 1 year for zoning study

FY26 Performance Measures

Permit Review and Support

Q1: July-September

525
Residential Plan Reviews

99%

Q2: October-December

508
Residential Plan Reviews

100%

90% of plan reviews are completed in 10 business days for residential permits

Zoning Staff consistently meets all performance metrics despite high volume and other challenges.

FY26 Performance Measures

Permit Review and Support

Q1: July-September

723
Commercial Plan Reviews

100%

Q2: October-December

806
Commercial Plan Reviews

99.9%

90% of plan reviews are completed in 15 business days for commercial permits

Zoning Staff consistently meets all performance metrics despite high volume and other challenges.

FY26 Performance Measures

Zoning Hearing Review and Recommendations

Q1: July-September

14
HBC Cases

100%

Q2: October-December

17
HBC Cases

100%

90% of HCB Reports transmitted to Law 4 business days before the hearing

Nearly all Historic review is conducted by 1 FTE. This highly technical work requires a specialized skillset and great attention to detail.

FY26 Performance Measures

Subdivisions

Q1: July-September

5
Major Subdivisions

60%

Q2: October-December

5
Major Subdivisions

86%

90% of major subdivisions reviewed within 30 days

Subdivisions can be technically complex, and some may take longer than others to complete due to need for additional information or City Planning Commission schedule or agenda.

FY26 Performance Measures

Subdivisions

Q1: July-September

3
Minor Subdivisions

100%

Q2: October-December

2
Minor Subdivisions

100%

90% of minor subdivisions reviewed within 30 days

Subdivisions can be technically complex, and some may take longer than others to complete due to need for additional information.

FY26 Performance Measures

Zoning Studies and Amendments

Q1: July-September

5
Zoning Studies / Amendments

100%

Q2: October-December

6
Zoning Studies / Amendments

100%

90% of zoning studies/amendments are complete within 6 months for zone change application or 1 year for zoning study

Zone Changes and Zoning Studies can be technically complex, and some may take longer than others to complete due to project challenges, need for additional community engagement, or City Planning Commission schedule and agenda.

Proposed FY27 Performance Measures

Permit Review and Support	Subdivision Review	Zoning Studies and Amendments	Zoning Hearing Review and Recommendations	Zoning Hearing Review and Recommendations
No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change	New
Why: Core to operations. Still the correct goal. **Measure:** 90% of Plans reviewed in10/15 business days.	**Why:** Core to operations. Goal is consistent with the regulations. **Measure:** 90% of subdivisions will be completed in 30 days.	**Why:** Core to operations. Still the correct goal. **Measure:** 90% complete within 6 months for zone change application or 1 year for zoning study.	**Why:** Core to operations. Still the correct goal. **Measure:** 90% of HCB Reports transmitted 4 business days before the hearing.	**Why:** Measuring only Historic reviews is an incomplete picture. Need to measure all Zoning Reviews. **Measure:** 90% of ZHE Reports will be transmitted one week before hearing.

Budget Reduction Impact

A 5.1% budget reduction for City Planning & Engagement is equivalent to $116,448. This will have a performance impact on FY27 service delivery in the following ways:

- **Increase in Development Review Time**
  Includes CSR, Permit Review, Zoning/Historic Reports, Zone Changes, Subdivision Review, Environmental Review
  Our team consistently meets performance goals but is stretched in capacity.

- **Delayed Neighborhood Plan Starts/Completion**
  Each Plan requires staff to be dedicated and responsive.

- **Focus on Being Reactive vs. Proactive**
  Development applications take priority, leaving less time for more forward-looking work such as long-range planning, zoning code clean-up/reform, community engagement, relationship-building, research, special projects, etc.

Other Service Delivery Challenges

- **Zoning Plans Examiners** face challenges with high permit volumes and tight deadlines, which can impact quality and efficiency. Current ZPE staffing capacity is inadequate to keep up with volume and maintain performance.

- **Plan Cincinnati Update** is a complex project that will require consulting assistance to complete on time.

- **Community Engagement** is currently conducted with no budget. Sufficient materials, equipment, technology, and refreshments all help those we engage feel more welcome and appreciated.

FY26 Accomplishments

- **Accomplishment 1: Neighborhood Plan Progress**
  - 2 finished and approved and 2 started in FY26; possible 5 more plans may be approved in 2026 calendar year.

- **Accomplishment 2: Implementation of City Manager's Community Engagement Plan and Policy**
  - 53 Engagement Champions representing all City Departments – training and tracking
  - Over 20% of all City Employees have completed Introductory Community Engagement training
  - 30+ Community Engagement touchpoints and continual relationship building

- **Accomplishment 3: Zoning Division** continues to meet measurement goals (or get close) despite high volume.
  - 6,279 zoning reviews
  - 1,253 same-day reviews
  - 347 Zoning Verification Letters
  - 753 Historic Reviews
  - 33 Certificates of Appropriateness
  - 3,910 calls to the Zoning Info line, 275 walk-ins

See our 2025 Annual Report for more great work!
https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/about-city-planning/annual-reports/

Questions?

city of CINCINNATI
Interdepartment Correspondence Sheet

April 6, 2026

To: Members of the Budget, Finance & Governance Committee

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

202601203

Subject: **Presentation – Office of Environment and Sustainability (OES) Budget Presentation**

Attached is the Office of Environment and Sustainability (OES) Budget Presentation for the Budget, Finance & Governance Committee Meeting on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 1:00 PM.

cc: William "Billy" Weber, Assistant City Manager
John Brazina, Assistant City Manager
Cathy B. Bailey, Interim Assistant City Manager

Office of Environment and Sustainability

Budget, Finance & Governance Committee
April 6, 2026

city of CINCINNATI

Agenda

- Mission Statement and Services
- Budget and FTE History
- FY26 Performance Agreement
- FY26 Performance Measures
- FY27 Proposed Performance Agreement Measures
- FY27 Budget Reduction Impact on Performance
- Other Service Delivery Challenges
- Accomplishments

Mission Statement and Services

The Office of Environment and Sustainability (OES) leads City government and the broader community in building a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient Cincinnati.

- Electric Vehicles & Charging
- Energy Aggregation
- Energy Management of City Facilities
- Energy Poverty
- Food Policy and Programming
- Grant Writing and Management
- Green Cincinnati Plan
- Renewable Energy
- Zero Waste Initiatives

Budget and FTE History

Environment and Sustainability General Fund	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Personnel Compensation	547,670	619,020	845,200	953,970	1,010,470
Fringe Benefits	200,310	203,900	293,400	376,760	385,310
Non-Personnel Expenses	1,772,230	1,982,460	2,267,740	2,995,460	3,055,230
General Fund Total	**2,520,210**	**2,805,380**	**3,406,340**	**4,326,190**	**4,451,010**

Environment and Sustainability Principal Restricted Funds	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Stormwater Management Fund	1,036,310	1,186,670	1,198,540	2,710,530	2,737,640
Principal Restricted Funds Total	**1,036,310**	**1,186,670**	**1,198,540**	**2,710,530**	**2,737,640**

Environment and Sustainability - FTEs by Agency	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Environment and Sustainability	8.73	9.73	10.73	12.00	12.00
FTE Total	**8.73**	**9.73**	**10.73**	**12.00**	**12.00**

FY26 Performance Agreement

City Goal	Service	Performance Goal
Thriving Neighborhoods	Electric Vehicles & Charging	Ratio of Fleet EVs to Level 2 chargers of 2:1 or lower
	Energy Affordability	50 LMI households receiving energy relief annually
	Green Cincinnati Plan	85% percent of Green Cincinnati actions completed or in progress
	Renewable Energy	125 Megawatts of renewable energy annually
	Zero Waste Initiatives	Average 70% Citywide residential recycling participation rate annually

FY26 Performance Measures

Electric Vehicles & Charging

Q1: July-September	Q2: October-December
55 Fleet Charging Stations	**55** Fleet Charging Stations
2.25:1	2.25:1

Ratio of Fleet EVs to Level 2 chargers of 2:1 or lower

Contract to upgrade charging infrastructure has been finalized, and work will be underway in Q2 of 2026.

FY26 Performance Measures

Energy Affordability

Q1: July-September

27
LMI Households Receiving Energy Relief

27

Q2: October-December

109
LMI Households Receiving Energy Relief

109

50 LMI households receiving energy relief annually

OES partnerships with Department of Buildings & Inspections, Strategies to End Homelessness, and Over-the-Rhine Community Housing have helped this work scale.

FY26 Performance Measures

Green Cincinnati Plan Progress

Q1: July-September

111
Actions Completed / In Progress in the Quarter

86%

Q2: October-December

113
Actions Completed / In Progress in the Quarter

87%

85% percent of Green Cincinnati actions completed or in progress

Of 130 actions in the Green Cincinnati Plan, 113 are in progress or have been completed.

FY26 Performance Measures

Renewable Energy Procurement

Q1: July-September

103
Megawatts of Renewable Energy Procured

103

Q2: October-December

113
Megawatts of Renewable Energy Procured

113

125 Megawatts of renewable energy annually

The City now has 30 facilities with rooftop solar generating 2.8 MW of solar, a 100 MW power-purchase agreement, and has recently finalized a contract for 10MW of solar at the Center Hill Landfill.

FY26 Performance Measures

Zero Waste Initiatives

Q1: July-September

45,000
Residential Households That Recycled

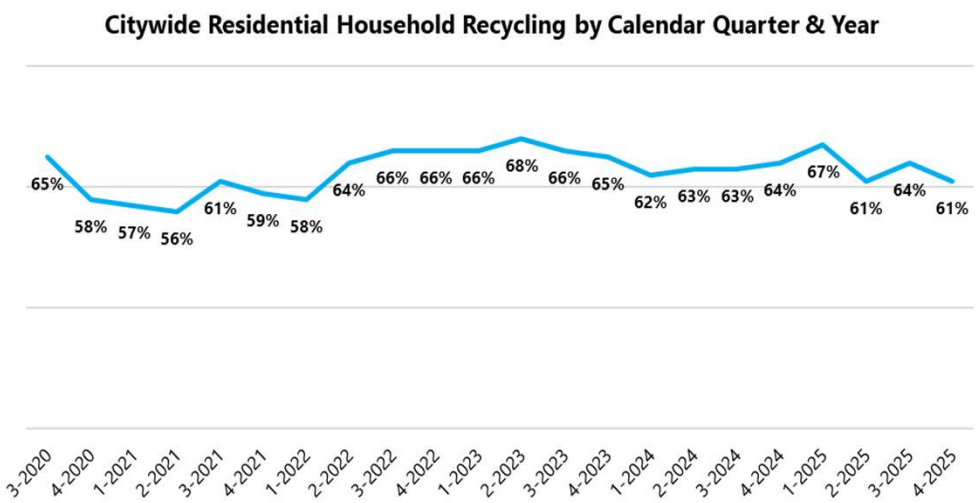
64%

Q2: October-December

42,000
Residential Households That Recycled

61%

Goal: Average 70% Citywide residential recycling participation rate annually



70% is the aspirational recycling participation target.
43% is the national participation average.

Proposed FY27 Performance Measures

EVs & Charging	Energy Affordability	Green Cincinnati Plan	Renewable Energy	Zero Waste
No Change	Modification	Modification	No Change	New
Why: Core to operations. Still the correct goal.	**Why**: Core to operations. Advancing the goal.	**Why**: Core to operations. Advancing the goal.	**Why**: Core to operations. Still the correct goal.	**Why**: Recycling participation is a proxy for waste diversion
Measure: Ratio of Fleet EVs to Level 2 chargers of 2:1 or lower	**Measure**: 100 LMI households will receive energy relief annually	**Measure**: 90% percent of Green Cincinnati actions completed or in progress	**Measure**: 125 Megawatts of renewable energy annually	**Measure**: 22% of residential waste stream will be diverted from landfill

Budget Reduction Impact

A 5.1% budget reduction for OES is equivalent to $230,000. This will have a performance impact on FY27 service delivery in the following ways:

- **Recycling: Discontinue Recycling Cart Repairs**
  Aging recycling carts are breaking at an accelerating pace. Discontinue repairs and retire damaged carts until a long-term funding plan is in place. This has the potential to reduce recycling participation and increase operational costs associated with trash pickup. This will impact CSR closure rates.

- **Recycling: Pause New Cart Delivery**
  Temporarily pause delivery of carts to single family homes that are not currently recycling. This has the potential to limit or reduce waste diversion and increases the average cost per household for the recycling pickup. This will impact CSR closure rates.

Service Delivery Challenges

- **Challenge 1: Rapidly increasing energy prices**
  Electricity prices have increased more than 70% in the last 5 years, increasing City operational costs, cost of living, and business costs.

- **Challenge 2: Aging Recycling Cart Fleet**
  80,000 recycling carts are beyond life-expectancy and failing at an accelerating pace.

- **Challenge 3: Changing federal landscape & expiring tax credits**
  Federal legal shifts have meant disruptions and changes to project funding.

FY26 Accomplishments

- **Accomplishment 1: Center Hill Solar Contract Finalized**
  Finalization of a contract to converting a landfill into 9.8 MW of clean energy to power City operations and stabilize utility costs and eliminate 16,000 tons of carbon emissions annually.

- **Accomplishment 2: Expansion of Multi-Family Recycling Services**
  Through grant support, the City has expanded recycling services to targeted multi-family buildings, adding 934 new households to the program so far.

- **Accomplishment 3: WarmUp Cincy Energy Cost Relief to Low-Income Residents**
  Over 606 low-income households have received energy burden relief through building upgrades, tenant energy education, utility bill payment, and electrification. Partnerships with Buildings & Inspections, Strategies to End Homelessness, and Over-the-Rhine Community Housing.

Questions?

Briefing Prepared for City Council

Capital Planning & Borrowing Process, Financial Results, and Credit Rating Considerations

April 6, 2026

Purpose of the Presentation

- In preparation for more detailed Capital Planning, Debt Capacity, and Debt Affordability discussions later this budget cycle, City Staff have asked Davenport to prepare a Two-Part Briefing for City Council.

- Part One of the Briefing will address the following today:
  - The Capital Planning and Borrowing Process;
  - Recent Financial Results; and,
  - Credit Rating Considerations.

- Later in the budget cycle, Davenport will return with Part Two of the briefing that provides a more in-depth presentation discussing the City's Debt Capacity & Affordability, inclusive of an analysis of capital projects the City is actively considering.

Background

- Davenport & Company LLC ("Davenport") was initially engaged as Financial Advisor by the City of Cincinnati (the "City") in 2014.

- Davenport was engaged following a two-notch credit rating downgrade by Standard & Poor's, and a one-notch downgrade by Moody's.
  - Note: Moody's also assigned a "Negative Outlook" to the City following the downgrade – in essence, a two-notch downgrade.

- In the City's first Credit Ratings with Davenport as Financial Advisor, Moody's revised their outlook to "Stable", and in 2016, S&P upgraded the City to AA.
  - Credit ratings serve as an independent assessment of the City's ability to fund both essential services and essential capital projects through varying economic cycles.

- Over the past decade, Davenport has assisted the city with strategic multi-year capital planning, credit rating agency interactions, new money and refunding issuances, and financial policy development.

Peer Comparative Group Analysis

- Throughout this presentation, we have provided several comparisons to demonstrate how the City stands fiscally relative to its peers – including Columbus and Cleveland.

Peer Comparative Group			
Locality	Issuer Credit Rating(s)(1)	Locality Population	MSA Population
Cincinnati, OH	**Aa2 / AA / NR**	**309,595**	**2,312,858**
Baltimore, MD	Aa2 / AA / NR	577,193	2,857,781
Cleveland, OH	Aa3 / AA- / NR	367,523	2,165,775
Columbus, OH	Aaa / AAA / AAA	914,802	2,242,028
Kansas City, MO	Aa3 / AA / AA	508,233	2,270,682
Memphis, TN	Aa2 / AA / AA	629,063	1,341,412
Miami, FL	Aa2 / AA / NR	446,663	6,391,072
Nashville-Davidson, TN	Aa2 / AA+ / NR	709,846	2,197,416
Oakland, CA	Aa1 / AA+ / AA-	438,072	4,630,041
Omaha, NE	Aa2 / AA+ / NR	488,197	1,009,836
Pittsburgh, PA	A1 / AA- / AA	303,620	2,421,992
Sacramento, CA	Aa2 / AA / AA+	524,802	2,477,274
Tucson, AZ	Aa3 / AA / AA	543,348	1,074,685

(1) Moody's / S&P / Fitch

Overview of the Capital Planning & Borrowing Process

Overview of the Capital Planning & Borrowing Process

Winter/ Early Spring	Administration/Financial Advisors analyze the projected impact of potential Capital Improvement Projects ("CIP") on the City's Fiscal Health.
Spring	Administration prepares a formal proposed CIP for consideration by City Council.
Late Spring	City Council modifies/amends the proposed CIP, as necessary, and formally adopts the final CIP as part of the budget process.
Summer	Administration/Financial Advisors develop a plan of finance for fully funding the adopted CIP.
Fall	Administration/Financial Advisors meet with Credit Rating Agencies to discuss the City's Economy, Fiscal Management, and Plan of Finance.
Late Fall / Winter	Administration/Financial Advisors Execute Plan of Finance and secure funding for capital projects

Recent Financial Results

Recent Financial Performance

- The City has experienced multiple recent years of strong financial results driven by prudent financial management, and the overall health, stability, and growth of both the local and national economy.

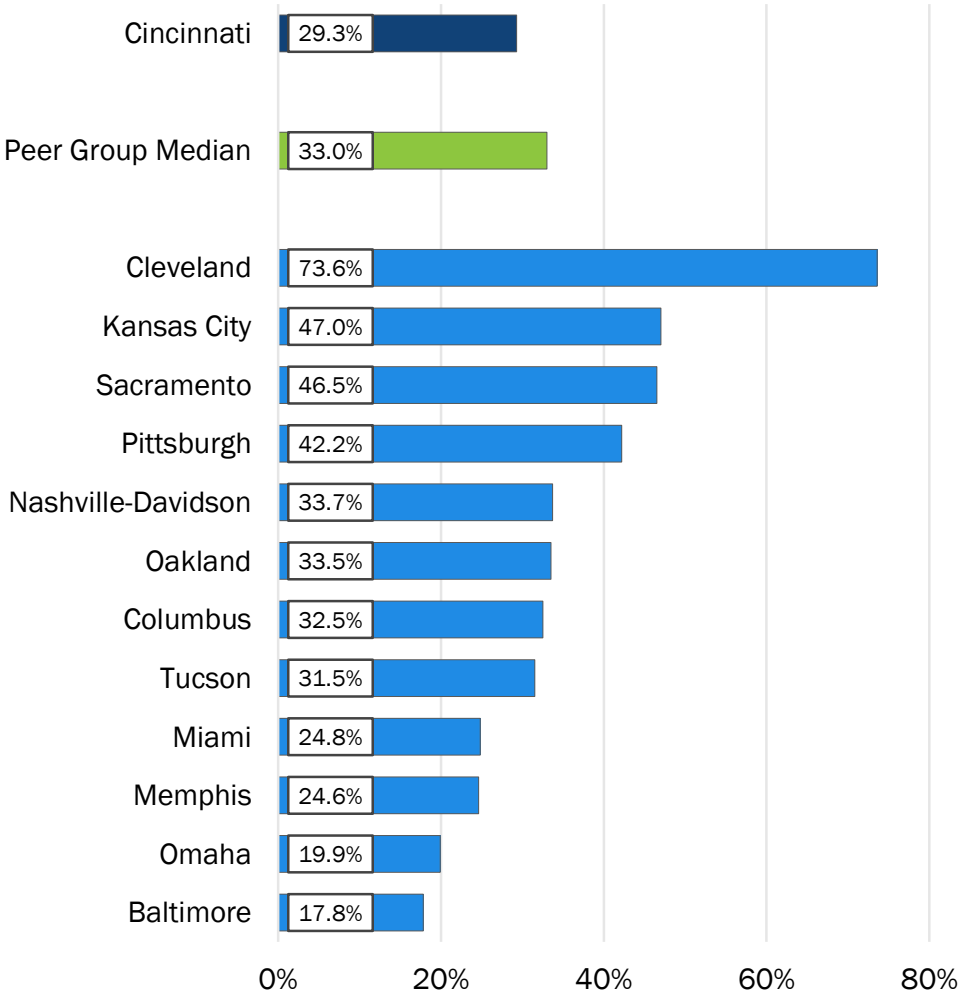
- Due to these strong financial results, in FY 2022, the City was able to reach its <u>minimum</u> target Stabilization Reserve Balance of 16.7% of revenues;
  - This was the first time the City had reached the target level since the enhanced policy was initially adopted by City Council in 2015.

- However, many other localities were also able to capitalize on COVID Relief Funds and strong economic factors to grow fund balances, and even with the recent surpluses, the City's fund balances trail certain regional peers.

- As the national economic outlook continues to evolve, it will continue to be essential to maintain structural balance
  - The use of one-time revenue sources, such as fund balance, to fund recurring expenditures could lead to an operating deficit and potential negative fiscal impacts to the City.

Peer Comparative | All Gov. Funds Available Fund Balance

AFB vs. Revenue - All Gov. Funds

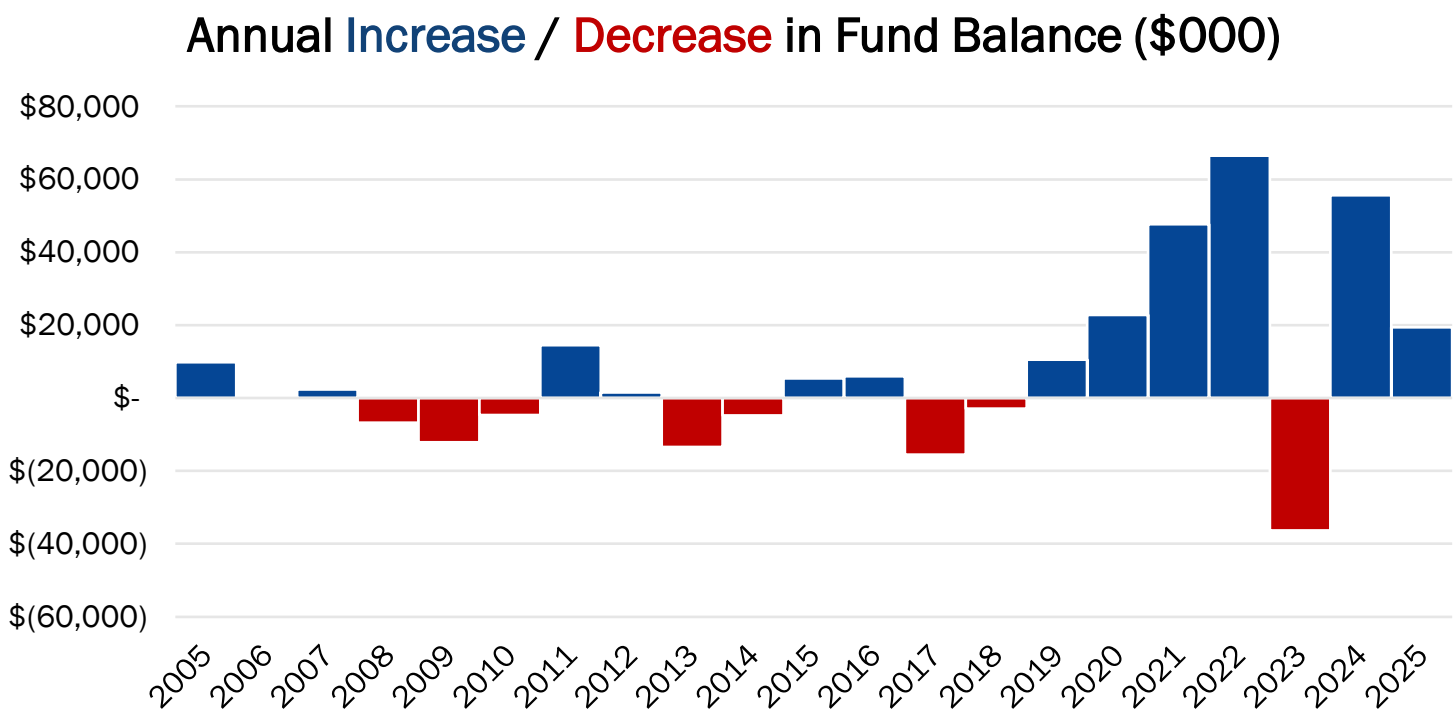


- The City's "Available" Fund Balance, when measured as a percentage of all Governmental Fund Revenues, is below the median for the Peer Group, and lags behind certain regional peers such as Columbus, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh.
- Fund Balances provide for fiscal continuity and enable the City to fund core operations through varying economic and budgetary cycles.

Data sourced from Moody's Investors Service

Historical Changes in Fund Balance (General Fund)

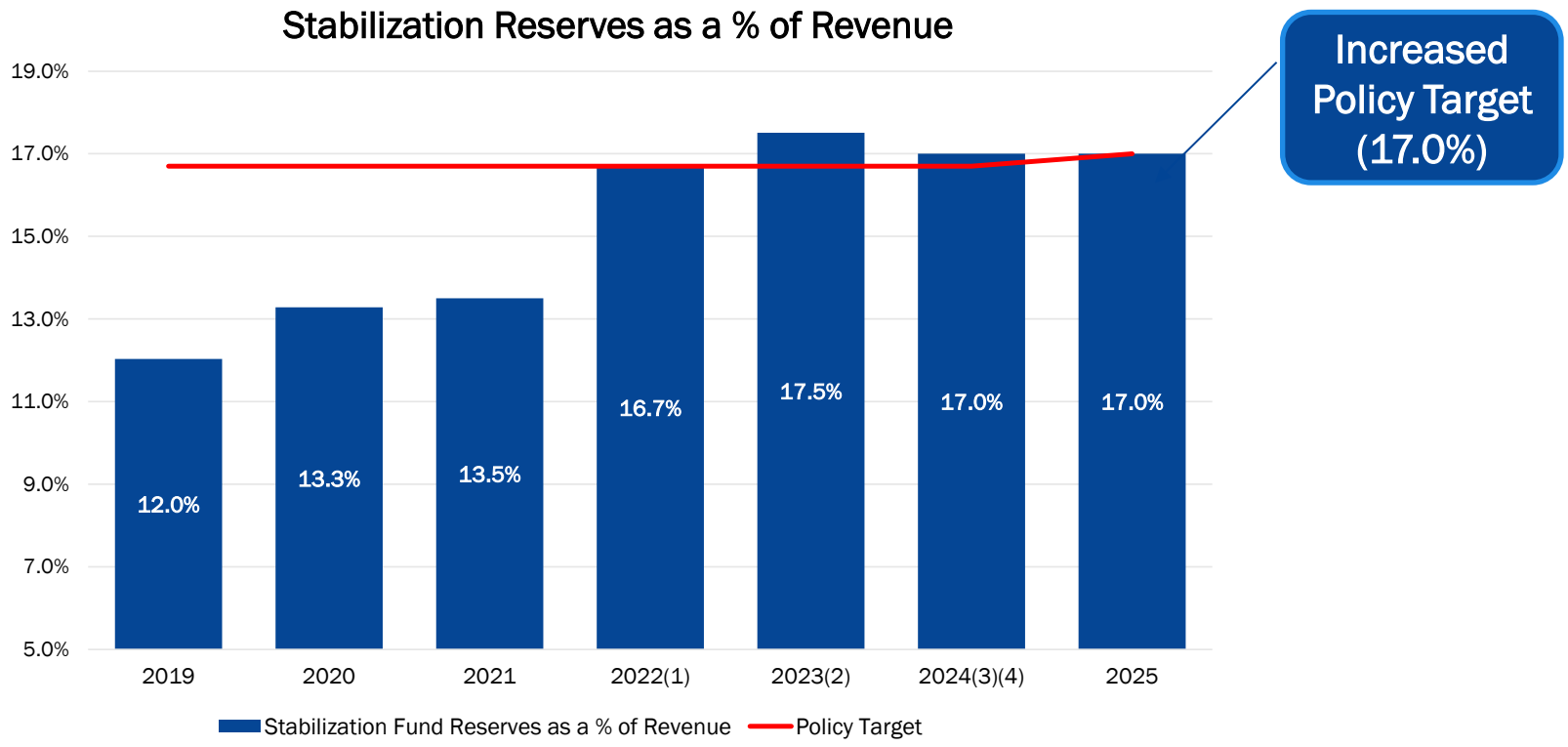
- From 2020 through 2024, the City was able to materially grow its fund balances as a result of growth in tax revenues, an expanding regional economy, and Federal COVID-19 relief funds (i.e., CARES/ARPA dollars).
- However, the FY 2026 Budget marked the end of Federal ARPA dollars, and inflationary pressures coupled with economic uncertainty raise the likelihood of a return to a pre-2020 operating environment – where the City runs closer to breakeven over time.



Source: City of Cincinnati ACFRs. 2025 reflects unaudited data.

Stabilization Funds (After Transfers)

- The recent multiple years of strong financial results have allowed the City to add to its stabilization funds – enabling the City to achieve its <u>minimum</u> policy target level for the first time in FY 2022 and increase the policy target to 17% in FY 2025.



(1) Revenue in FY 2022 included ARPA dollars.
(2) Revenues in FY 2023 exclude $85.6 million in ARPA Revenue.
(3) Revenues in FY 2024 included $27.2 million in ARPA Revenue. The reserve percentage is 17.87% based on GF revenue only (excluding ARPA).
(4) General Fund Contingency Account excludes $21.7 million that will be applied to one-time uses in FY 2024
Source: City of Cincinnati Staff

Credit Rating Considerations

Credit Rating Overview

- The City enjoys "very strong" Aa2/AA credit ratings from Moody's and S&P, respectively. These credit ratings were affirmed as part of the issuance process in 2025.
  - **Credit ratings serve as an independent assessment of the City's ability to fund both essential services and essential capital projects through varying economic cycles.**

City of Cincinnati				
Moody's	S&P			
Aaa	AAA	Top Tier "Highest Possible Rating"		Considered Investment Grade
Aa1	AA+	2nd Tier "Very Strong"	(Highest)	
Aa2	**AA**		(Middle)	
Aa3	AA-		(Lowest)	
A1	A+	3rd Tier "Strong"	(Highest)	
A2	A		(Middle)	
A3	A-		(Lowest)	
Baa1	BBB+	4th Tier "Adequate Capacity to Repay"	(Highest)	
Baa2	BBB		(Middle)	
Baa3	BBB-		(Lowest)	
BB, B, CCC, CC, C, D		5th - 10th Tiers "Below Investment Grade"		Below Investment Grade

Current G.O. Rating

Key Drivers to a Credit Rating

Then vs. Now | Moody's Credit Rating Report

MOODY'S RATINGS

city of CINCINNATI

2014 Rating Downgrade

"The negative outlook reflects the **expectation that the city will continue to face challenges in attaining structurally balanced operations**, stemming from…**reliance on a number of one-time budgetary solutions in recent years**."

2025 Rating Affirmation

"The outlook on the city is stable because…**we expect cash and fund balance to remain stable, supported by the city's good budget management and a broad revenue base**."

Rating Agency Commentary | Moody's 2025 Rating Report

MOODY'S RATINGS

city of CINCINNATI

Credit Strengths

- Diverse regional economic center anchored by numerous corporate headquarters, healthcare organizations and higher education institutions
- **Steady financial operations supported by strong budgetary management**

Credit Weaknesses

- **Elevated long-term leverage with pension contributions below tread water**
- **While adequate, available fund balance is below peers**

Factors that Could Lead to an Upgrade

- Reduction of long-term liabilities ratio closer to 200%
- Economic growth that boosts the resident income ratio closer to 80% or full value per capita closer to $100,000

Factors that Could Lead to a Downgrade

- **Weakening of available fund balance ratio below 25%**
- **Growth in long-term liabilities ratio above 450%**

Then vs. Now | S&P Credit Rating Report

S&P Global

city of CINCINNATI

2014 Rating Downgrade

"Weak budgetary performance, including projections for a **significant operating deficit** in fiscal 2014."

2025 Rating Affirmation

"Strong financial operations and robust reserve and liquidity position that will continue, guided by a sophisticated management team with **well-established long-term planning and financial management policies and practices."**

Rating Agency Commentary | S&P's 2025 Rating Report

S&P Global

city of CINCINNATI

Credit Observations

- Anchor for a broad and diverse MSA that's supporting exceptionally high economic output
- **Management is exceptionally strong, providing a foundation for near- and long-term financial stability**
- Significant financial flexibility, with fiscal 2025 available reserves estimated at $226 million or 38.6% of general fund revenue
- **The City's large debt, pension, and other postemployment benefit liabilities remain a credit weakness and rating limitation,**

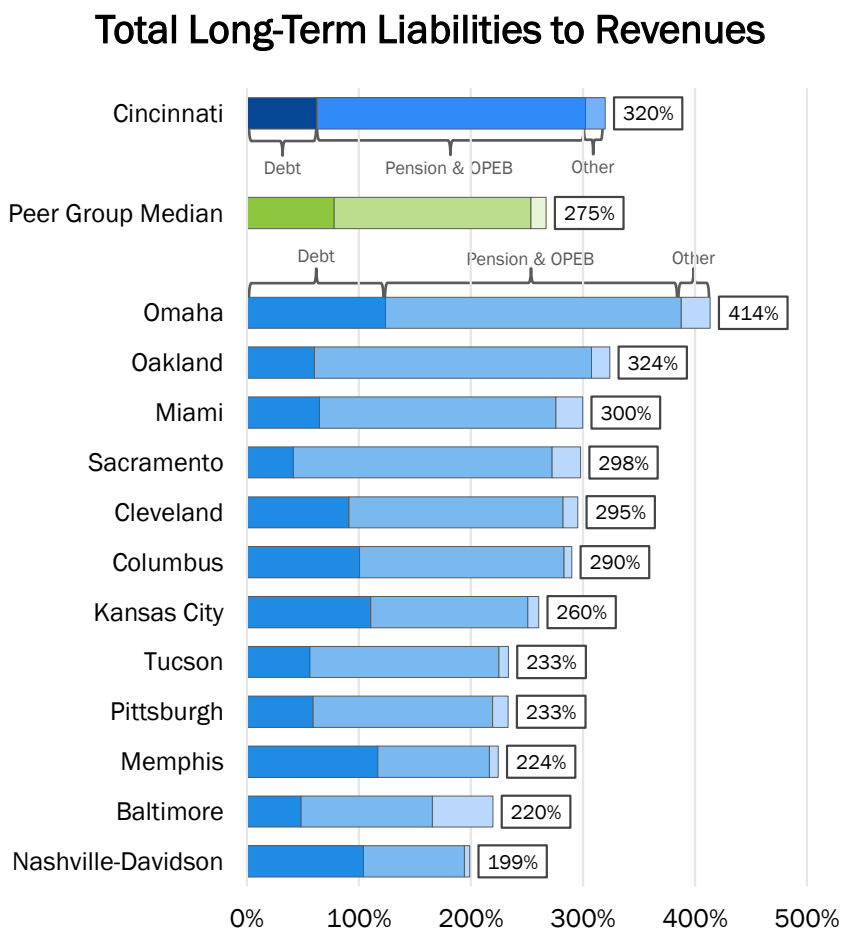
Upside Scenario

- In the longer term, if Cincinnati improves its pension funding discipline and liability, with all other rating factors remaining constant, we could raise the rating.

Downside Scenario

- We **could lower the rating if reserves decrease** to a level that we believe is no longer commensurate with that of similarly rated peers. We **could also lower the rating if the city's pension funding discipline leads to material weakening in its funding status**.

Peer Comparative | Total Long-term Liabilities



- The City's Overall Liabilities as a percentage of its Revenues are elevated relative to the peer group median.
  - **<u>However, this is largely attributable to the City's Pension Liability, and not its Debt/Other Liabilities.</u>**

Date sourced from Moody's Investors Service

Cost of a Rating Downgrade

- A credit rating downgrade of one notch (i.e., Aa2 to Aa3) can lead to an increased borrowing cost in the range of 5-15 basis points.

- At first, this difference may seem de minimis; however, the City's total tax-secured debt profile amounts to more than $600 million.
  - Further, the City typically amortizes its debt upwards of 20 years; and,
  - Meaning, over 20 years on a $600 million portfolio, 5-15 basis points can lead to an $18+ million increase in total debt service.

- This difference in borrowing costs could be further exacerbated if the market perceives negative momentum in the City's credit rating.

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01.01.26 EJ | HP | AA | RK | KL | DR

city of CINCINNATI
Interdepartment Correspondence Sheet

April 6, 2026

To: Mayor and Members of Council

202601231

From: Steve Webb Finance Director

Subject: Presentation – Capital Planning, Debt Capacity, and Debt Affordability

Attached is a presentation regarding Capital Planning, Debt Capacity, and Debt Affordability.

c: William "Billy" Weber, Assistant City Manager
Steve Webb, Finance Director