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Councilmember

202401079

Our greatest responsibility as a City Council is to cultivate and maintain a safe community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. To do that, we must ensure our residents have a roof over their heads, fresh food on the table and access to healthcare. In addition, we must continue to use a data-driven and equity-centric approach to invest at the grassroots level into community-based programs that serve those most in need.

Public Safety

While overall violent crime in Cincinnati has reached a 10-year low, the 2023 City of Cincinnati Resident Survey found that only 40% of residents were satisfied with the overall feeling of safety. Prioritizing public safety in our budget necessitates a holistic approach that includes supporting law enforcement, addressing the social determinants of health that contribute to gun violence, and providing youth outlets to grow and learn.

Budget Request:

1. **Victim Assistance Liaison Unit** – Funding for two additional full-time and two part-time staff members to support survivors of gun violence.
2. **Secure firearm storage** – Funding for gun locks and lock boxes to be distributed to the public.
3. **Boots on the Ground/Safe and Clean Fund** – Increase funding available through Boots on the Ground and Safe and Clean Funds to support grass-roots organizations.
4. **Alternative Response to Crisis (ARC)** – Provide funding for a second ARC team to help those in crisis using the most appropriate and least invasive intervention available.
5. **Food access** – For Leveraged Support, prioritizing organizations that address food insecurity.
6. **Pedestrian safety** – Continued funding for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, with increased opportunities for communities to request projects in priority areas and intersections.

Thriving Neighborhoods

To foster a stronger Cincinnati, we must invest in each of our 52 neighborhoods. We have heard consistently from our residents that pedestrian safety is a key priority to ensuring our neighborhoods are safe and walkable, especially around our business districts and where children frequent (e.g., schools, parks and rec centers). Additionally, multiple Cincinnati neighborhoods are food deserts. In fact, data shows that between 10-30% of Cincinnati residents are food insecure and food insecurity has increased by 60% since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Budget Request:

1. **Food delivery pilot program** - Funding for a two-year pilot program in select neighborhood(s) targeting SNAP recipients to provide greater access to healthy food options and other basic needs.
2. **Traffic safety technology** – Funding for enhanced technology in collaboration with Cincinnati Police Department and Department of Transportation and Engineering to monitor unsafe driving.
3. **Community councils** – Restore NSP funding through Invest in Neighborhoods to \$10,000 per neighborhood and explore opportunities to expand capacity and training opportunities.

Growing Economic Opportunity

We must embrace a “yes, and” approach to address the critical challenge of housing by prioritizing long-term zoning reform through Connected Communities while incentivizing housing for low- and moderate-income residents. We should also explore creative solutions to expand and strengthen our workforce, including supporting our minority- and women-owned businesses, increasing access to childcare and elderly care and prioritizing inclusive transportation options.

Budget Request:

1. **Funding for low-income housing** – Funding for the Affordable Housing Leveraged Fund through the Cincinnati Development Fund with increased emphasis on development projects aimed at 60 AMI and below.
2. **Workforce development** – Expand Career Pathways to increase additional departments and kinds of roles and continue support for Building Futures program through the Urban League.

Fiscal Sustainability

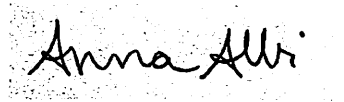
The City must employ a strategic and data-driven approach to our budget, especially for external organizations funded through Human Services and Leveraged Support. Funding should be based on performance and data outcomes, and we should be creative and ambitious about seeking out federal and private grant opportunities. As we consider undertaking large projects, we should prioritize leading with pilot programs where possible and including clearly defined success measures to evaluate effectiveness and sustainability.

Excellent and Equitable Service Delivery

According to our 2023 City of Cincinnati Resident Survey, 61% of residents are either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the quality of City services. Two areas where residents see the greatest need for improvement include: the maintenance of City streets/sidewalks/infrastructure (25% “satisfied or “very satisfied”) and the effectiveness of City communication with the public (39% “satisfied or “very satisfied”). In addition to focusing on these critical areas, the City must continue to invest to ensure we are recruiting, training and retaining top-tier talent. Almost every department director identified staffing and talent development as a service delivery challenge.

Budget Request:

1. **Resident communication** – Invest in technologies that would allow the City to engage with residents more effectively, specifically including opt-in text messaging capabilities.
2. **Infrastructure improvements** – Prioritize infrastructure improvements outlined in the Cincy on Track Critical Infrastructure Plan.

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