

May 8, 2024

To: Mayor and Members of City Council 202401300
From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager
Subject: Notwithstanding Ordinance – 525 Elm Street in the Central Business District “Elm Street Plaza”

Transmitted is an Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the construction of an outdoor plaza and related improvements on the real property located at 150 W. 5th Street in the Central Business District **NOTWITHSTANDING** the provisions contained in Section 1411-15, “Minimum Façade Height,” and Section 1411-17, “Commercial Continuity,” of Cincinnati Municipal Code Chapter 1411, and any other applicable zoning regulations that would prevent the property’s redevelopment as an outdoor plaza.

The City Planning Commission recommended approval of the zone change at its May 3, 2024 meeting.

Summary:

The proposed development, to be called Elm Street Plaza, will consist of an outdoor plaza across the current Elm Street, utilizing the previous Millennium Hotel site to incorporate a mix of gathering space, a pavilion with outdoor seating and public restrooms, a dog park, a lawn, fencing, landscaping and greenery, and new entrance spaces complimenting the soon to-be renovated Duke Energy Convention Center (DECC).

The City Planning Commission recommended the following on May 3, 2024 to City Council:

1. **ADOPT** the Department of City Planning and Engagement findings and conclusions based on the fact that it will not have an adverse effect on the character of the area or the public health, safety and welfare and is consistent with the purposes of the Cincinnati Municipal Code Section 111-5 and zoning district(s); and
2. **APPROVE** the Notwithstanding Ordinance permitting the installation of Elm Street Plaza (located between W. 5th Street and W. 6th Street) at 525 Elm Street in the Central Business District.

cc: Katherine Keough-Jurs, FAICP, Director, Department of City Planning and Engagement