



Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
Councilmember

MOTION

WE MOVE for the City Administration to deliver a report to City Council, outlining all current city government activities and programs aimed at promoting and enabling homeownership for low-income individuals and families in Cincinnati, along with an update on the impact and effectiveness of these activities. WE FURTHER MOVE for this report to include a feasibility analysis for providing low-income homeowners with forgivable loans to make necessary repairs and home improvements, such that the loan becomes forgivable (in full, or part) upon five (5) years of residing within the home. If such a program (or set of programs) already exists, we ask that the report outline in detail how the program(s) work, who the program(s) has served (e.g. by income-level, age, household size, and neighborhood), and recommendations for expanding such program(s) to increase impact. WE FURTHER MOVE for the city administration to identify funding sources that could be used to enable either the city, or a city partner organization, to complete small repairs for low-income homeowners, such that homeowners would be liable to pay back the cost of repairs on a sliding scale, depending on level of household income. Most middle-class families cannot come up with a one-time sum of \$20,000 for a new roof, for example, but could very well make important investments in their homes if granted the option to pay back the sum of repairs over time. WE FURTHER MOVE that this report be delivered to City Council within 14 days.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney".

Councilmember Jan-Michele Kearney

STATEMENT

Homeownership not only is a wealth builder for families, but is linked to improved physical and psychological health, increased community engagement, and even higher educational achievement for children. Cincinnati, with its 38% homeownership rate, lags behind the national average of 62%. In addition, there is a huge racial gap in Cincinnati: Black residents own 29% of owner-occupied units in Cincinnati compared to white residents at 66.4%. Our goal is to put feasible programs in place to increase homeownership, especially with underrepresented populations, in order to strengthen our neighborhoods and our Cincinnati families.