

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

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An Ordinance No. 225 - 2021

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING the City Manager to execute a *Community Reinvestment Area Tax Exemption Agreement (LEED or Living Building Challenge)* with Blair Lofts I, LTD. and the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority thereby authorizing a 15-year tax exemption for 100% of the value of improvements made to real property located at 3401 Reading Road and 609 Maple Avenue in the Avondale neighborhood of Cincinnati, in connection with the construction of a new building comprised of approximately 71,057 square feet of residential space, consisting of 64 rental units, which construction shall be completed in compliance with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver, Gold or Platinum standards or Living Building Challenge standards, at a total construction cost of approximately \$10,022,542.

WHEREAS, to encourage the development of real property and the acquisition of personal property, the Council of the City of Cincinnati by Ordinance No. 274-2017 passed on September 27, 2017, designated the area within the corporate boundaries of the City of Cincinnati as a “Community Reinvestment Area” pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (“ORC”) Sections 3735.65 through 3735.70 (the “Statute”); and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 275-2017 passed by this Council on September 27, 2017, as amended by Ordinance No. 339-2018, passed by this Council on October 31, 2018, sets forth certain additional policies, conditions and limitations regarding newly constructed or remodeled commercial and residential structures in the Community Reinvestment Area; and

WHEREAS, to encourage the development of real property in a more environmentally-friendly manner, the Commercial Policy Ordinance incentivizes: (i) construction and remodeling to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (“LEED”) standards (as defined by the U.S. Green Building Council); and (ii) construction and remodeling that obtains (a) Living Building Challenge Net Zero certification, (b) Living Building Challenge Full certification, or (c) solely in circumstances where the construction or remodeling complies with the requirements of the “Energy Petal” of the Living Building Challenge, Living Building Challenge Petal certification, in each case as defined by the International Living Future Institute and the Cascadia Green Building Council (collectively, “LBC” standards), all pursuant to the Statute; and

WHEREAS, effective October 23, 2017, the Director of Development of the State of Ohio determined that the area within the corporate boundaries of the City of Cincinnati contains the characteristics set forth in the Statute and confirmed such area as a Community Reinvestment Area under the Statute; and

WHEREAS, Blair Lofts I, LTD. (the “Company”) desires to construct a new building comprised of approximately 71,057 square feet of residential space, consisting of 64 rental units on real property at 3401 Reading Road and 609 Maple Avenue located within the corporate boundaries of the City of Cincinnati, to LEED or LBC standards (the “Improvements”), provided that the appropriate development incentives are available to support the economic viability of the Improvements; and

WHEREAS, to provide an appropriate development incentive for the Improvements, the City Manager has recommended a *Community Reinvestment Area Tax Exemption Agreement (LEED or Living Building Challenge)*, in substantially the form of Attachment A to this ordinance, to authorize a real property tax exemption for the Improvements in accordance with the Statute; and

WHEREAS, the property is located within the Cincinnati City School District; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Cincinnati City School District (the “Board of Education”), pursuant to that certain *Tax Incentive Agreement* effective as of April 28, 2020 (as may be amended, the “Board of Education Agreement”), has approved exemptions of up to 100% of Community Reinvestment Area projects, waived advance notice and the right to review such projects, and waived sharing or allocation of municipal income taxes in connection with such projects; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Board of Education Agreement, the Company has entered into (or will enter into) an agreement with the Board of Education requiring the Company to pay the Board of Education amounts equal to 33% of the exempt real property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Improvements do not involve relocation of part or all of the Company’s operations from another county or municipal corporation in Ohio or, if there is relocation, notice has been given per ORC Section 3735.673; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That Council approves a Community Reinvestment Area Tax Exemption Agreement (LEED or Living Building Challenge) with Blair Lofts I, LTD. and the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority (the “Agreement”), thereby authorizing a 15-year tax exemption for 100% of the assessed value of improvements to be made to real property located at 3401 Reading Road and 609 Maple Avenue in Cincinnati, as calculated by the Hamilton County Auditor, in connection with the construction of a new building comprised of approximately 71,057 square feet of residential space, consisting of 64 rental units, to be constructed in compliance with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver, Gold or Platinum standards (as defined by the U.S. Green Building Council) or Living Building Challenge standards (as described in the Agreement and as determined by the International Living Future Institute and the Cascadia Green Building Council, as applicable) at a total construction cost of approximately \$10,022,542.

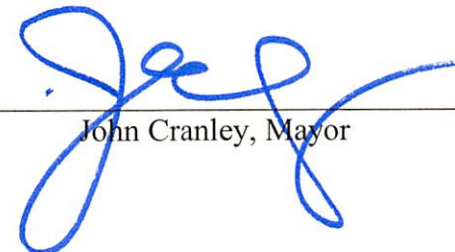
Section 2. That Council authorizes the City Manager:

- (i) to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City in substantially the form of Attachment A to this ordinance; and
- (ii) to forward on behalf of Council a copy of the Agreement, within fifteen (15) days after execution, to the Director of the Ohio Development Services Agency in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3735.671(F); and
- (iii) to submit on behalf of Council annual reports on the Agreement to the Director of the Ohio Development Services Agency and to the Board of Education of the Cincinnati City School District, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3735.672; and
- (iv) to take all necessary and proper actions to fulfill the City's obligations under the Agreement.

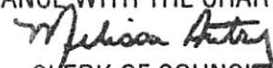
Section 3. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to allow the construction described in this ordinance and the corresponding revitalization of the City of Cincinnati and the benefits to the City's economic welfare to begin at the earliest possible time.

Passed: June 9, 2021

Attest: 
Clerk


John Cranley, Mayor

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ORDINANCE NO 725-2021
WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CITY BULLETIN
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER ON 6-22-2021


CLERK OF COUNCIL