

December 18, 2024

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

202402572

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – DCED: West Fork Incinerator Demolition

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

ESTABLISHING new permanent improvement project account no. 758x164x251631, “West Fork Incinerator Demolition – GF,” to provide resources to the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority (“the Port”) to remediate the West Fork Incinerator site; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and return to source of \$1,000,000 from capital improvement program project account no. 980x104x251029, “Green Cincinnati Sustainability Initiatives – GF,” to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and return to source of \$562,000 from capital improvement program project account no. 980x164x251623, “Property Development Improvements – GF,” to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund; and **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of \$1,562,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to newly established permanent improvement project account no. 758x164x251631, “West Fork Incinerator Demolition – GF,” to provide resources to the Port to remediate the West Fork Incinerator site.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance would authorize the return to source of \$1,562,000 to the General Fund from two existing capital improvement program project accounts. This Emergency Ordinance would also authorize the transfer and appropriation of \$1,562,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to newly established permanent improvement program project account, “West Fork Incinerator Demolition – GF,” to provide resources to the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority (the Port) to remediate the West Fork Incinerator site.

The West Fork Incinerator, located in the Cincinnati neighborhood of South Cumminsville, was previously used to burn garbage. However, in response to the Clean Air Act, the West Fork Incinerator was shuttered in the 1970s. On November 4, 2024, the City Council passed Ordinance No. 0372-2024, which authorized a Property Sale Agreement with the Hamilton County Land Reutilization Corporation (the Landbank) to facilitate remediation of the West Fork Incinerator site, including removal of asbestos, lead, and other hazardous materials, and return the site to productive use. The City, the Landbank, and the Port will be working to remediate the West Fork Incinerator site. The Port secured a grant of approximately \$5,053,000 from the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) to remediate the site, which requires a local match of approximately \$1,562,000, which includes a grantee administration fee for the Port.

Remediation of the West Fork Incinerator site 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 enter into any agreements necessary to proceed with the West Fork Incinerator Demolition project.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director
Karen Alder, Finance Director

Attachment

