

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

An Ordinance No. 201

AWG

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- 2020

**AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to take such actions as are necessary to establish fare-free transit service for the Cincinnati Bell Connector beginning on September 2, 2020, which program shall be consistent with the adopted Fiscal Year 2021 streetcar budget; **AUTHORIZING** the suspension for sixty days of those sections of the Cincinnati Municipal Code that would otherwise require payment of fares by streetcar riders; and **DECLARING** Council's intent to introduce additional legislation within sixty days to modify the Cincinnati Municipal Code to allow for an ongoing fare-free service option for the Cincinnati Bell Connector.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Cincinnati has enacted an operations and maintenance budget for Fiscal Year 2021 based on collection of zero dollars in fare revenue, which makes it possible for the Cincinnati Bell Connector to move to a fare-free transit system; and

WHEREAS, the City Administration has given the streetcar operator notice to resume service on September 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, additional legislative and administrative actions must occur in order to fully implement a fare-free transit option for the Cincinnati Bell Connector, which steps cannot be completed prior to the resumption of service on September 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Council by this ordinance intends to establish a sixty-day period for fare-free service, starting on September 2, 2020, which period will provide time to review and implement the broader changes necessary to establish an extended, fare-free system for the Cincinnati Bell Connector; and

WHEREAS, the City Administration will work with the Federal Transit Administration, state regulators, and the streetcar operator to take such steps as are needed for temporary and long-term free-fare service including additional legislation, fare-free operating procedures, signage requirements and information changes to station stops, and such other steps as may be necessary to carry out this ordinance; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to take any and all appropriate steps to establish a sixty-day period for fare-free service, starting on September 2, 2020, which period will provide time to review and implement the broader changes necessary to establish an extended, free-fare system for the Cincinnati Bell Connector. The fare-free system shall be

consistent with enacted streetcar budget ordinances and shall not exceed existing streetcar appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021.

Section 2. That by this ordinance Council authorizes the City Administration to adopt fare-free transit service for the Cincinnati Bell Connector notwithstanding any contrary language or provisions in the Cincinnati Municipal Code including, but not limited to: sections 723-26 - Streetcar Designated Paid Fare Zone; 770-1-D - Designated Paid Fare Zone; 770-3 - Unlawfully Obtaining Streetcar Services; 770-5 (f) - Unlawful Interference with Streetcar Services; 770-7 - Notice of Violation; Exclusion from Streetcar System; Misdemeanor; and 770-9 - Enforcement of Civil Violations. These provisions shall be inapplicable to streetcar operations for sixty days but only to the extent and in such manner as operation of these provisions would conflict with fare-free operations. The above provisions remain in effect to the extent consistent with ongoing streetcar operating policies and non-fare-based enforcement needs.

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 provide for fare-free operations and restart for the Cincinnati Bell Connector on September 2, 2020.

Passed: September 1, 2020

Attest: [Signature]  
Clerk

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John Cranley, Mayor

