

EMERGENCY

RDH

- 2023

AUTHORIZING a payment of \$10,795.86 to Women Helping Women (“WHW”), a gender-based abuse prevention and victim assistance organization, as a moral obligation for services provided to the City of Cincinnati over the past year as part of WHW’s victim advocate program in Hamilton County Municipal Court, to be paid from the Law Department’s General Fund non-personnel operating budget account no. 050x112x7000x7281.

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati and Women Helping Women (“WHW”) have had a decades-long, effective partnership in collaborating to assist victims of gender-based violence within the criminal justice system and to determine effective educational methods to reduce rates of gender-based violence in the Greater Cincinnati region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati consistently partners with WHW and other regional stakeholders annually to equitably share the costs incurred by WHW to provide multiple victim advocates to assist prosecuting witnesses in domestic violence and related cases heard in the Hamilton County Courthouse, including Hamilton County Municipal Court where domestic violence cases and related cases filed in the City of Cincinnati are prosecuted by attorneys from the City of Cincinnati Solicitor’s Office; and

WHEREAS, WHW advocates provide ongoing crisis intervention and advocacy and maintain regular communications with City of Cincinnati prosecutors in order to sustain effective working relationships and collaboration with domestic violence survivors as they proceed through the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the annual funding agreement between the City of Cincinnati and Women Helping Women was inadvertently not submitted to the City of Cincinnati Solicitor’s Office by Women Helping Women in September of 2021, resulting in WHW providing victim advocate services to the City in City of Cincinnati domestic violence cases in Hamilton County Municipal Court between September 2021 and November 2022 without a contract, at which time the discrepancy was noted; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati’s ongoing efforts to implement OnBase software and related document management and contract tracking software will greatly assist impacted departments, including the Law Department, with improving current administrative processes related to contract tracking and will assist City departments in improving accuracy and accountability related to the City’s contracting processes; and

WHEREAS, sufficient resources are available from the Law Department’s General Fund non-personnel operating budget to provide the necessary payment to WHW; and

WHEREAS, Council desires to provide payment for the services of WHW for victim advocate services in Hamilton County Municipal Court in the amount of \$10,795.86, which constitutes the City of Cincinnati's share of the services provided by WHW between September 2021 and November 2022; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Finance Director is hereby authorized to make a payment of \$10,795.86 to Women Helping Women ("WHW"), a gender-based abuse prevention and victim assistance organization, as a moral obligation for services provided to the City of Cincinnati over the past year as part of WHW's victim advocate program in Hamilton County Municipal Court, to be paid from the Law Department's General Fund non-personnel operating budget account no. 050x112x7000x7281.

Section 2. That the proper City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of Section 1 hereof.

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 pay Women Helping Women as a moral obligation for victim advocate services previously provided to the City of Cincinnati.

Passed: _____, 2023

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk