

2025 50167

City of Cincinnati



January 27, 2025

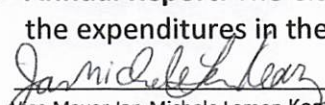

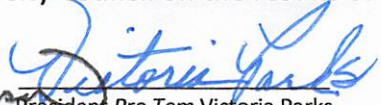
Motion to Ensure Equity in the Disbursement of Proceeds from the Sale of the Cincinnati Southern Railway (CSR)

WE MOVE that the City of Cincinnati take the following actions to ensure equity in the disbursement of the proceeds of the sale of the Cincinnati Southern Railway so that our underserved neighborhoods benefit from the proceeds from the sale in terms of both existing infrastructure and new economic development opportunities:

1. The City shall analyze the demographics of the beneficiaries most directly affected by each proposed project and identify those projects that can deliver the most benefit to historically underserved minority and low-income communities.
2. The City shall create a dashboard on the City's website to create transparency with the spending of the proceeds from the sale of the Cincinnati Southern Railway, and that dashboard shall track each project, including but not limited to providing information on neighborhood, demographics served, and amount invested.
3. The City shall create **two funds** to ensure that our 15 most underserved neighborhoods benefit from the proceeds of the sale of the CSR as follows:
 - a. Demographic and socioeconomic data information for Cincinnati's neighborhoods was used to create the "Rising 15": the 15 neighborhoods most in need of economic benefits, as shown by **Exhibit A** attached hereto.
 - b. **FUND 1 (the "Rising 15 Railroad Fund")**: In addition to inclusion in the infrastructure plans across all neighborhoods, the City will allocate at least 10% of the annual return on investment on the proceeds from the sale of the CSR to the Rising 15 Railroad Fund. *The population of the Rising 15 neighborhoods comprises approximately 20% of the City's population. The 10% minimum is based on the fact that some of the infrastructure projects, such as renovation of healthcare centers, directly affect residents of the Rising 15 neighborhoods although the residents do not live in those neighborhoods.*
 - 1) **Community Advisory Committee**: The City Manager shall appoint seven (7) community members to a community advisory committee.
 - a) The City Manager shall create, recommend and manage a transparent public processes.

- b) The appointed community advisory committee’s purpose is to review efforts across the country to repair the damage done by slavery and race discrimination and use that research and study to improve efforts to close the wealth gap in Cincinnati.
 - c) This community advisory committee shall assist the newly created Office of Equity in its efforts to close the racial wealth gap.
- 2) **City Manager shall develop a process to ensure equity in the distribution of funds and equitable representation of the Community Advisory Committee.**
 - 3) Expenditures must be restricted to projects that meet the statutory criteria for the use of proceeds from the sale of the CSR.
 - 4) City Council will vote on the Community Advisory Committee’s recommendations.
- c. **Second Fund (“Rising 15 Economic Development Fund”) to create economic development opportunities in our underserved neighborhoods:**
- 1) The source of funding for the Rising 15 Economic Development Fund shall be an initial allocation of \$15 million from sources to be determined by the City administration such as the FY ’23 carryover funds, and/or the City’s FY ’24 General Capital Budget, and an annual allocation of up to \$3 million from the City’s General Capital Budget.
 - 2) The Community Advisory Committee will make recommendations to City Council on economic development projects for the Rising 15 neighborhoods.
 - 3) City Council will vote on the Community Advisory Committee’s recommendations.
4. **Economic Inclusion:** City Council adopted an equitable development model in February 2023 as a pilot for the Convention Center. This model shall apply to projects funded through the sale of the railroad, including:
- a. A minimum inclusion of 20% MBE and 10% WBE businesses annually in projects funded with the railway sale dollars.
 - b. Joint ventures with developers that include minority-owned or women-owned developers shall be encouraged to meet the diversity & inclusion goals.
 - c. The City administration shall create a plan for access to capital for minority-owned and women-owned businesses.
 - d. The City shall proactively work to assist minority-owned and women-owned businesses to overcome the barrier of first-time bonding.

5. **Annual Report:** The City will provide an annual report to City Council on the results of the expenditures in the Rising 15 neighborhoods.

 Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney	 Councilmember Scotty Johnson	 President Pro Tem Victoria Parks
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EXHIBIT A: The "Rising 15" Neighborhoods

Neighborhood	TOTAL POPULATION	Black or African American alone or in combination with one or more other races	Median household income (dollars)
Villages at Roll Hill	1,918	1,720	\$ 11,327
Millvale	1,965	1,802	\$ 12,272
English Woods	361	323	\$ 14,309
Lower Price Hill	1,070	556	\$ 15,987
Queensgate	1,070	556	\$ 15,987
Winton Hills	5,684	4,879	\$ 17,949
South Fairmount	2,181	1,347	\$ 19,343
West End	6,824	5,613	\$ 19,499
East Westwood	2,458	2,046	\$ 20,929
Avondale	11,345	9,662	\$ 24,250
Roselawn	7,039	6,038	\$ 24,575
Mt. Airy	9,210	5,978	\$ 27,920
East Price Hill	15,241	6,013	\$ 30,112
South Cumminsville	702	622	\$ 31,288
North Fairmount	1,590	1,236	\$ 33,882

STATEMENT

President *Pro Tem* Victoria Parks, Councilmember Scotty Johnson, and Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney filed the “Rising 15” Motion on October 16, 2023 to create a policy to ensure equitable distribution of the proceeds from the sale of the Cincinnati Southern Railway. The Motion was sunset before City Council was able to discuss and consider it. While the “Rising 15” (communities that have seen less investment than other communities and whose residents have the lowest income levels) is sometimes referenced in making policy decisions, it is necessary to formalize this policy through approval by City Council.

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Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney filed the "rising 12" motion on
President J-M LK Councilmember Scott Johnson and

CHA → Healthy Neighborhoods