



Reggie Harris

Councilmember

202200061

January 7, 2022

MOTION

WE MOVE that City Council approve an expenditure to support staffing increases for entry-level firefighter recruits in 2022. City Council will consider the American Rescue Plan Act 2022 funds as a possible source of funding. City administration will prioritize funding the staffing increases in the FY 2023 Budget.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reggie Harris".

Reggie Harris

STATEMENT

Attrition is a major concern of the Cincinnati Fire Department, and this Motion to approve the support of entry-level firefighter recruits in 2022 will increase the Department's long-term capacity and systemically decrease the amount of staffing shortages. City Administration will work with the Fire Department to determine the number of recruits needed and corresponding appropriate support.

The rapid increase of new COVID-19 cases in the Cincinnati region has revealed the fire department's already depleted staffing levels, constituting a public danger and fire-safety emergency that, if unaddressed, will continue to cause staffing shortages that would substantially undermine the City's firefighting and first-responder readiness levels. The recent emergency declaration of by City Council regarding the conditions of the City's Fire Department underscores this emergency situation.

As testified to by the City of Cincinnati's Fire Chief, the combination of scheduled holiday leave and rising levels of COVID-19 quarantines has made the fire department vulnerable to staffing shortages that would substantially impair the City's ability to protect the lives and property of Cincinnatians. This Motion will help to alleviate the staffing shortages in the Department.