



**Mark Jeffreys**  
Councilmember

June 10, 2022

## MOTION

### *FY 2022 Closeout Budget*

WE MOVE that, the Administration prioritize funding the below during the closeout budget process.

1. **City Deferred Maintenance Projects**
2. **College Hill Trail Feasibility Study:** \$150,000
3. **Artworks:** \$150,000
4. **Mill Creek Kayak Launch Infrastructure:** \$300,000
5. **Ohio River Trail West Mill Creek Crossing Feasibility Study:** \$250,000
6. **Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC):** \$300,000
7. **LADD:** \$1,000,000
8. **Westwood Civic Association:** \$37,749
9. **Bethany House:** \$100,000
10. **Freedom Center:** \$300,000
11. **ROMAC:** \$500,000
12. **Imperial Theater:** \$400,000

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## STATEMENT

This proposed list of closeout budget funding priorities is not an exhaustive list but rather a strategic one that reflects the capital needs of the City and our communities that will create the conditions for more equitable opportunity and thriving neighborhoods.

With millions of dollars of deferred maintenance expenses for our parks, recreation centers, and firehouses, our first priority after the previously approved 'waterfall' of investments needs to be addressing many of these needs to ensure that basic public services can be met and the long-term viability of the City.

Investing in transformational infrastructure throughout our neighborhoods is also an important priority because it creates the conditions for economic and neighborhood vibrancy. The CROWN has been transformational for the east side of town with 1,000+ people a day

enjoying the Wasson Way Trail. Funding a feasibility study to extend it as a part of the *Ohio River Trail West over the Mill Creek* will provide access to those on the west side to this network and connect the west side to downtown along the riverfront. Similarly, the *College Hill Trail Feasibility Study* would study the conversion of city-owned right of way into a pedestrian/bike trail that would connect the College Hill Business District through a mostly wooded area to Northside and the CROWN. This creates safe and accessible transportation and recreational opportunities for residents, but also fuels economic vibrancy for these neighborhoods.

Investing in arts institutions that bring our neighborhoods together is also a driver of economic and community vitality. The new *Artworks* building in Walnut Hills, the *Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC)* building in Clifton, the *ROMAC* in the West End, and the *Imperial Theater* in the Mohawk District of OTR will all be anchor institutions that not only serve their immediate neighborhoods but also attract residents from across the region, enriching our neighborhoods and city as a whole.

Investing in infrastructure that serves the underserved with new but proven approaches is important. *LADD* empowers adults with developmental disabilities to live and work independently with a unique model that they have proven is effective. This investment enables the building of three additional facilities in Cincinnati. *The Bethany House* investment also reflects that vital need to provide a bridge to empower young families in need.

Investing in sustainability within our neighborhoods is a critical priority. The investment in *Westwood Civic Association* enables the purchase of recycling and other sustainability infrastructure in the community, which has become more important with the opening of the DORA. Another investment in sustainable recreation is reflected by the funding of the *Mill Creek Kayak Launch Infrastructure*, which will activate the recreational opportunities of the Mill Creek by creating the infrastructure needed to canoe and/or kayak with the construction of an access point in Lower Price Hill. Now that the Mill Creek is as clean as the Little Miami, this facility will allow anyone who wishes to canoe/kayak the ability to do so in the heart of our city. This project will support the economic revitalization and improve the quality of life of the many neighborhoods along its channel—neighborhoods that have long been unjustly underserved.

  
Councilmember Mark Jeffreys