

June 3, 2021

TO: Mayor and Members of City Council **2021012062**

FROM: Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager

**SUBJECT: Report- Use of ARP Funds for Small Businesses and
Neighborhood Business Districts**

REFERENCE DOCUMENT #202101124

City Council adopted at its session on March 24, 2021 the following Motion:

MOTION, submitted by Councilmember Keating, Mann, Sundermann and Kearney, Our small businesses have suffered from the negative impacts of COVID-19 at a disproportionate level. The City of Cincinnati is to receive \$290 million from the American Rescue Plan, President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus stimulus bill. WE MOVE that the City Administration prepare a REPORT on how much money, of the \$290 million from the American Rescue Plan, that the city could feasibly set aside to aid the small business community in their COVID-19 recovery efforts. This approach needs to be a two-pronged effort that not only targets specific small businesses but also takes a blanket approach to focus on providing aid to neighborhood business districts. Therefore, WE FURTHER MOVE that the City Administration prepare a REPORT on how much money of \$290 million from the American Rescue Plan, that the city could feasibly set aside to identify and aid the neighborhood business districts that have been most negatively impacted by the COVID-10 impact. WE further MOVE that the City Administration prepare a REPORT on the eligibility requirements in which small businesses and neighborhood business districts would need to meet in order to qualify for relief through the city. These funds would be utilized to assist in the recovery from the losses our small businesses and communities have endured due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We request these reports within 21 days to allocate enough time to consider these findings for the upcoming budget process.

The Administration's proposed use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds includes various support programs for businesses which directly and indirectly impact small businesses as follows:

- **CVB Support** – This would provide operational support to the Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau.
- **Restaurant Grant Phase 2** – This would provide funds for a second phase of the local economic stimulus plan to support dining and drinking establishments in the City.
- **Neighborhood Activation Fund** – This would provide funds for neighborhood activation and events in public spaces throughout the City.
- **Neighborhood Business Districts Support Grants** – This would provide additional funds for businesses located in the Neighborhood Business Districts.
- **Minority Business Partnerships** – This would provide funds for a partnership with the Urban League.
- **Minority Business Accelerator – Ascend** – This would provide funds to Ascend*Cincy, a partnership between the City, Urban League, the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, and the Minority Business Accelerator to provide staffing, accounting, human resources, financial coaching, and other assistance to Black-owned businesses.
- **Women Business Program** – This would provide funds to support women owned businesses through a partnership with Main Street Ventures for women owned businesses.
- **Outdoor Dining Grant Program (Neighborhoods)** – This would provide resources for a grant program to cover the cost of the design and construction of public infrastructure improvements that facilitate outdoor dining and increase pedestrian safety in various City neighborhoods.
- **ROW & Pedestrian Safety Improvements Outdoor Dining Urban Core** – This would provide funds for DOTE to make Right-Of-Way (ROW) improvements in the Urban Core designed to enhance outdoor dining.

Since then, additional programs have been proposed by councilmembers, and the Administration will implement the approved programs.

cc: Christopher A. Bigham, Assistant City Manager