



# City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

## Agenda - Final

### Healthy Neighborhoods

*Chairperson, Jan-Michele Kearney*  
*Vice Chairperson, Victoria Parks*  
*Councilmember Anna Albi*  
*Councilmember Scotty Johnson*

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Tuesday, June 10, 2025

12:30 PM

Council Chambers, Room 300

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#### PRESENTATION

#### SPEAKERS

#### KEEP CINCINNATI BEAUTIFUL - BOOTS ON THE GROUND FUND

Ty Wesselkamper, Safe & Clean Grant Coordinator

#### PRICE HILL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Don Driehaus, Safety CAT, West Price Hill Board Member

Pam Dixon, Translator

Amber Kassem, President EPHIA

#### AGENDA

#### PRESENTATION

1. [202501188](#) **PRESENTATION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Kearney regarding the City of Cincinnati's Safe & Clean Neighborhood Fund.

**Sponsors:** Kearney

**Attachments:** [Presentation](#)

#### REPORTS

2. [202501123](#) **REPORT**, dated 5/29/2025, submitted Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, regarding City food policies and procurement. (Reference Document # 202500038)

**Sponsors:** City Manager

**Attachments:** [Report](#)

3. [202501139](#) **REPORT**, dated 6/4/2025, submitted Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, regarding City Support for Immigrant Communities. (Reference Document # 202500171)

**Sponsors:** City Manager

**Attachments:** [Report](#)

### **ESTABLISHING CINCINNATI'S LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION**

4. [202501132](#) **ORDINANCE**, submitted by Vice Mayor Kearney, from Emily Smart Woerner, City Solicitor, **ESTABLISHING** Cincinnati's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and other sexual and gender identities ("LGBTQIA+") Commission, to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor, Council, and the Administration on all issues of concern for LGBTQIA+ individuals within Cincinnati.

**Sponsors:** Kearney

**Attachments:** [Transmittal](#)  
[Ordinance](#)

### **DECLARING PENDLETON STREET, "VERDIN BELL WAY"**

5. [202501051](#) **ORDINANCE**, submitted by Councilmember Johnson, from Emily Smart Woerner, City Solicitor, **DECLARING** that Pendleton Street at 12th Street in the Pendleton neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of "Verdin Bell Way" in honor of The Verdin Company and their 183-year legacy of craftsmanship, innovation, and service in the City of Cincinnati.

**Sponsors:** Johnson

**Attachments:** [Transmittal](#)  
[Ordinance](#)

## **ADJOURNMENT**



KEEP  
**CINCINNATI  
BEAUTIFUL**



## The City of Cincinnati's Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund

(Updated June 2025)

**Ty Wesselkamper**  
Safe and Clean Grant Coordinator  
Ty@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org



Safe and Clean funding is intended for projects that utilize crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) where improved beautification enhances community ownership and reduces violence. This funding is open for organizations prioritizing youth-led initiatives to promote positive physical changes in their neighborhoods.

## Priority focuses for FY24-25

- 1. Engage Youth Leaders:** Projects should be led by or actively involve young people who are passionate about improving their neighborhoods.
- 2. Promote Physical Changes:** Focus on transforming the physical environment by using CPTED strategies to reduce crime and increase community safety.
- 3. Focus on high-crime neighborhoods:** Projects should engage residents in OTR, Avondale, West End, Winton Hills, East Price Hill, Westwood, Roselawn, West Price Hill, Mt. Airy, Walnut Hills  
Top 10 Neighborhoods 2024 provided by CPD and Sr. Crime Analyst Dr. Jillian Desmond.



The City of Cincinnati's Safe and Clean Grant is funded through the City Manager's Office Human Services Department

Deanna White, Director of Human Services, Office of the City Manager

## Grantmaking Process

- Human Services Department funds \$500,000 annually since 2022.
- KCB's core contract provides \$50,000 since 2007.
- Three deadlines annually in January, May, and September
- Provides financial support for one-time costs for neighborhood-led initiatives to improve quality of life in Cincinnati.
- Application is based on S.A.R.A problem-solving framework(scan, analyze, response, assessment).
- Collaboration between groups, community leaders, and organizations is strongly encouraged.
- Youth stipends and transportation costs are reimbursable.

## Grantmaking Process Cont.

A six-member fund advisory committee reviews grant applications three times per year:

- KCB(non-voting): Ty Wesselkamper
- Community Development and Planning: Breanna White
- Cincinnati Police Department: Exec. Asst. Chief Maurice Robinson
- City Manager's Office: Kait Bell
- Public Services: Courtney Hauser
- Private sector(cross-section of community/community leader): Vice Chair of Board, Village Green Foundation and Community Engagement Specialist, Cincinnati Children's: Moshe Seid



## **Resources for applicants and community**

- We require all applicants to meet with the grant coordinator(Ty) before applying for Safe and Clean to discuss the project in detail.
- For each round of funding, we host a general information session(optional) with Q&A.
- In May 2025, in partnership with the CMO and CPD, we held additional training with Dr. Jillian Desmond and Lt. Col. Matthew Hammer on the SARA model and measurable outcomes for applicants.
- Ty offers grant writing assistance, peer reviews, and application feedback for all applicants.
- In FY24-25, 6/7 applicants not recommended for funding initially returned the following round and secured financing.

## FY24-25 Measurable Outcomes

- \$1,377,832.44 in grant requests
- 23 projects funded totaling \$476,720.33
- 22/23 are in the top neighborhoods with the highest gun violence
- 23/23 are led by youth or actively engage youth
- 22/23 use crime prevention through environmental design(CPED)
- **Engaged 961 volunteers totaling 8041 hours as of the end of May 2025 totaling \$269,293.09 in volunteer value.**
- **Cost-benefit: For every dollar the City has invested in Safe and Clean, the economic benefit is 3.2x**



## **Mt. Airy CURE \$21,000**

- Engaged Aiken High School's agriculture program students and staff(33 volunteers for 3 hours)= 99 hours
- Hosted 2 clean up events with community members, Aiken HS, and Duke Energy
- Installed 6 raised beds and a pumpkin patch
- 6 picnic tables were built
- Invasive removal
- Added improved lighting to commons
- Improved the ADA pathway
- This project activated an unused dumping site engaging 69 volunteers for 228 hours.

## Price Hill Safety CAT \$2,832.56

- In 11 weeks, 5 mentors and 11 youths removed 261 large bags of trash totaling 6,525 lbs from vacant lots and surrounding areas.
- Partnered with KCB's Education & Youth team at Rees E. Price Elementary to prep garden space
- Partnered with Price Hill Will at St. Lawrence Square in May of 2025.





- Youth received stipends and learned how to budget their earnings.
- 4 students opened bank accounts.
- 1 youth started his own landscaping company saving his earnings from the summer program.
- Youth learned landscaping skills and team building. The youth received mentoring and school supplies.
- All 11 youth are planning to return for the summer of 2025.

## Save Our Youth Kings and Queens \$30,000

- In January 2025, Save Our Youth Kings and Queens was granted funding for beautification in Winton Hills led by youth.
- "Youth are the primary drivers of the project. In addition to providing stipends for labor, we are inviting youth to decide which spaces are targeted, what types of beautification the sites will receive, and what the creative design might be." - Save Our Youth Kings and Queens.



## Save Our Youth Kings and Queens cont.

Measurable outcome goals:

- Aim to engage 15 youths in service to clean areas in their neighborhoods with trash, and debris, and adding visual elements such as flowers.
- Aim to revitalize 10 major sites through liter pick up and landscaping.



## Future of Safe and Clean

- 3 upcoming deadlines for FY25-26 pending City budget approval
- **Potential 20.6% loss in funding by \$103,000**
- **Cost-benefit: For every dollar the City has invested in Safe and Clean, the economic benefit is 3.2x!**



Boys and Girls Club of GC participated in 2 clean ups with Fidelity and KCB, 41 teens totaling 82 hours of stewardship.

May 29, 2025

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

202501123

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: **City Food Policies and Procurement**

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### **Reference Document #202500038**

The City Council, at its session on February 5, 2025, adopted Motion 202500038 and referred the following item for review and report:

**MOTION**, submitted by Councilmember Albi, **WE MOVE** that the City Administration provide a report within ninety (90) days on the City's existing food contracts and procurement policies. This report should also reference how our current procurement policies align with our Green Cincinnati Plan, as well as with international best practices, such as the CityHealth Medal for Healthy Food Procurement, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, and the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC).

### **BACKGROUND**

Food is central to community health and food choices have significant climate impact. Numerous organizations have recommendations for best practices for food procurement and food waste prevention. This report describes the ways the City administration currently procures food, and how these practices align with recommendations from groups including the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC), the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, the Good Food Purchasing Program, Hamilton County ReSource, and the Green Cincinnati Plan.

### **CURRENT CITY CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT POLICIES**

The City has a decentralized approach to food procurement, allowing for flexibility at the implementation and user level. Currently there are no nutrition or sustainability guidelines for any food purchases by the city. Food purchases by the City primarily fall into three categories - vending machines, catered events, and on-going departmental program needs.

The City also owns the Duke Energy Convention Center (DECC) property, which is operated by a vendor. The vendor is responsible for food purchasing at DECC but not held to City Procurement policies or practices. The City does not track food purchases in a way that allows for quantitative analysis of food procurement.

### **Vending Machines**

There is no current contract in place for vending machines located within City Facilities. These vending machines may serve both city employees (i.e., in City Hall) and the public (i.e., Recreation Centers). There are numerous vending machines in a variety of city facilities. There is no policy guiding the content/offerings in the machines. There currently is no revenue or expense for the city from these machines.

### **Catered Events**

The current policy for catering at city-sponsored events does not require a competitive procurement process but does require the use of SBEs (Small Business Enterprises) as the first option for purchase. If SBEs are unable to meet the catering needs, the policy allows for use of alternative vendors to best meet the event requirements. There are no nutrition or sustainability requirements related to event catering, although accommodation of dietary choices (i.e. vegetarian, vegan) can be taken into consideration. If events occur in a venue that requires use of a particular food service/vendor, the City complies with that requirement.

### **Ongoing Departmental Programs**

Currently, there are no nutrition or sustainability guidelines or requirements for City food purchases for ongoing programs. The only City department with frequent ongoing food purchases is the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. Many City Recreation Centers host a variety of daily events where food is provided, such after-school programming, summer camps, and senior lunch events. Recreation Centers receive snack and meal donations from the United Methodist Church (UMC)'s, federally funded meal assistance program. The program is run by UMC and reviewed by the state to ensure compliance. There is no additional cost to Recreation for these donations. Most of these products are shelf stable and unwanted items can be placed on Share Tables. A Share Table is a cart or table where unconsumed food and beverage items (i.e., prepackaged food and beverages; unopened, wrapped food and beverages; or food items with a peel) that they choose not to eat or drink can be placed, with the intention of making them available to other program participants' use during the event. Unused, unopened items can be collected and returned to UMC if no longer needed or wanted. Recreation staff are also provided with City credit cards which they utilize to purchase some food items of their choice for their programming needs.

Cincinnati Parks' food purchases are more seasonal in nature, infrequent, and primarily revolve around summer camps. Parks camp participants are required to bring their own food each day, eliminating the need for on-going purchases by Cincinnati Parks, other than water. If hosting a general community event at a

recreation center or within a city park, the event coordinators, not the Recreation or Parks City staff, are responsible for providing food for participants, and there are no restrictions (other than alcohol) related to the food choices available.

There are no other city departments that routinely purchase food for programming needs. Firehouse food purchases are internal to each house and the Fire Department staff independently purchase and prepare their own food.

In addition to food purchases, there are some Recreation Centers that host federal or local non-profit food distribution events at the pools during the summer, supplying free food donations to residents. This may involve providing boxes of fresh produce at times or food packs for children to take home. The content of these provisions varies and may/may not include healthy nutritional food from sustainable sources.

Lastly, three recreation centers are now home to Community Freezers, stocked by local non-profit, La Soupe, and maintained by CareSource. They are located in Hirsch (Avondale), Millvale and Hartwell Recreation Centers. A freezer in Winton Hills will be activated in the coming months. The freezers provide access for residents in food deserts to free, healthy food. The meals, created by chefs, are nutritious and sustainable, as they utilize wasted food which is transformed into soups, entrees and snacks and stocked in the freezers weekly. There is no charge to the city for the food provided.

### **Duke Energy Convention Center**

The Duke Energy Convention Center (DECC) is owned by the City and operations are managed by ASM Global, a worldwide leader in venue management. The Center is undergoing a \$240M renovation with an anticipated reopening date of January 2026. The food and beverage operations are currently being negotiated. Hamilton County ReSource conducted a waste audit at the DECC (2024) and is exploring potential changes and needed infrastructure to improve food and waste management practices. Discussions among all parties include exploration of a biodigester to manage non-edible food waste. In 2024, the DECC hosted 63 events with approximately 292,540 attendees.

### **ALIGNMENT ANALYSIS**

In considering Cincinnati's current food policies and procedures, several food systems and sustainability structures and plans from local, national, and international perspectives were explored for alignment and identification of best practices. These included the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan, CityHealth Medal for Healthy Food Procurement, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) Food Matters Initiative, and the Good Food Purchasing Program. Additionally, some food procurement practices and policies of other cities were identified (Austin, TX; Philadelphia, PA; Columbus, OH; Nashville, TN, New York City, NY and Chicago, IL). Cincinnati, compared to many other cities, does not have

a large food purchasing footprint. Most cities included in this evaluation are responsible for large-scale food purchases within city school systems, correctional institutions, cafeterias, hospitals etc. Although the City of Cincinnati procures a limited amount of food, procurement practices can still have an important impact.

### **Green Cincinnati Plan**

The Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP)<sup>1</sup>, updated and approved by City Council in 2023, is the City's sustainability plan, and is comprised of eight focus areas, including Food and Waste. These areas emphasize (and call for increasing) local food consumption, production, and distribution by 100%, eliminating neighborhood food insecurity, and diverting 50% of organic waste from the land fill.

The City has programming that supports many of these recommendations, including:

1. Funding opportunities (City's Urban Agriculture Program and the Seeds of Change Grant program),
2. Community garden locations at several Recreation-owned properties,
3. Leveraged support funding to food rescue organizations (La Soupe and Last Mile Food Rescue), and
4. Federal grant funding (U.S. Department of Agriculture) for composting efforts.

The City does not currently have procurement practices or policies that include guidance on sustainability, local food options, or waste diversion via recovery or composting.

Austin, Texas' 2021 Climate Equity Plan calls for similar food and waste efforts as Cincinnati's GCP, including all Austinites can access a food system that is community-driven, addresses food insecurity, prioritizes regenerative agriculture, supports dietary and health agency, prefers plant-based foods, and minimizes food waste. Also, in addressing 50% reduction goals for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from institutional, commercial and government purchasing, Austin sites incorporating changes with the City's purchasing practices, followed by recruiting organizations of all types to adopt shared sustainable purchasing standards or guidelines, utilizing incentives, education, and training opportunities to enhance the City's Circular Economy.

*Opportunities to strengthen alignment in Cincinnati include:*

1. Utilize existing city infrastructure, such as Recreation Centers or Health Clinics to provide opportunities for distribution of healthy, repurposed food to residents for free.
2. Utilize city leveraged fund contracts to align best practices of funded organizations with GCP Food and Waste goals and strategies.

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<sup>1</sup> [Green Cincinnati Plan](#)

3. Support urban agriculture and local food purchasing through funding support, public-private partnerships, promotion/use of regenerative agriculture practices, land access and reduced barriers to agricultural investment on urban land.
4. Investments in sales markets including farmers markets, retail establishments and food aggregation hubs.
5. Require large venue city-owned facility (i.e., Convention Center) leasing agreement to include sustainable options for food service and waste management, including local food procurement options, rescue/recovery of edible food donations, composting of inedible food waste and food waste/diversion reporting.
6. Adopt best practices of food system planning from other cities and utilize public private partnerships and collaboration across the state and region to create a robust Cincinnati food system.

### **CityHealth**

CityHealth<sup>2</sup> is an initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente. It rates the nation's largest cities based on their progress in adopting twelve evidence-based policy solutions that will help provide access for everyone to have a safe place to live, a healthy body and mind, and a thriving environment. Cities are awarded a "Medal" status of Bronze, Silver or Gold depending upon the level of their adoption and accomplishments. Healthy Food Purchasing is one of the twelve pillars. The program evaluates various criteria, such as procurement policy mandating nutrition standards for venues where food is sold or served on city property. Cincinnati procurement does not currently address either criterion. With only one pillar remaining to be fulfilled, as of April 2025, Cincinnati does not have a medal status. Philadelphia is considered a leader in Healthy Food Purchasing. Philadelphia adopted a framework that allows the city's Procurement Office to prioritize high-quality, nutritious, local food, even if it costs a little more. They attempt to purchase meals and snacks that help support local, minority and women-owned businesses that will ultimately increase residents' access to healthful food and increase local economic activity and impact.

Columbus Recreation and Parks follows federal food service guidelines for summer meals and in selection of outside vendors. The Food Service Guidelines for Federal Facilities represent a set of voluntary best practices that can be implemented at federal departments and agencies as well as state and local governments. Subscribing to these guidelines helps Columbus increase healthy and safe food options, while also improving facility efficiency, and supporting the community through sourcing of local and regionally produced foods.

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<sup>2</sup> [CityHealth](#)

*Opportunities to strengthen alignment in Cincinnati include:*

1. Encourage healthier food choices (i.e., purchase lower salt, lower oil potato chips) through the creation of an educational toolkit for staff to use in food purchase decision points.
2. Seek CityHealth medal status- Cincinnati only needs one more pillar to achieve bronze level status. This could be achieved by developing a fair and reasonable food purchasing policy aligning with the Department of Health and Human Services' Food Service Guidelines for Federal Facilities.

### **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact**

Originating in 2014, The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP)<sup>3</sup> is an international protocol that tackles food-related issues at the urban level. Adopted by more than 300 global cities as possible, it is an international agreement of Mayors committing to a collection of food practices. Cincinnati became a signatory city in 2022. MUFPP is composed of a Framework for Action listing 37 recommended actions, clustered in 6 categories (Governance, Sustainable Diets & Nutrition, Social & Economic Equity, Food Production, Food Supply & Distribution, and Food Waste). Besides Cincinnati, U.S. signatory cities include Austin, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Columbus, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New Haven, New York, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Washington, DC. While Cincinnati has some alignment with numerous recommended actions, there are opportunities to further align and reinforce policies across all the Framework categories. Cincinnati was recognized in 2022 at the international Milan Pact Awards in Brazil for our work in the Food Waste category.

In Columbus, Ohio, procurement policies mostly relate to vending machines and follow City of Columbus Healthy Vending Nutrition Standards, which detail nutrition standards for 'healthy' food and beverage products to be offered. Columbus also provides an implementation guide and technical assistance to help City agencies implement these changes. The guidance addresses strategies to encourage consumers to purchase healthier options, including pricing, placement, and promotion strategies in the vending machines.

*Opportunities to strengthen alignment in Cincinnati include:*

Create MUFPP Dashboard to track and increase city progress within all 6 categories, deepening city food policy and practices across city departments, adopting vetted policies, collaborating with community stakeholders as applicable.

1. Identify numbers and locations of vending machines in City facilities, along with analysis of machine content offerings, and opportunities for improvement.

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<sup>3</sup> [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#)

2. Collaborate with other Great Lakes regional MUFPP signatory cities (Minneapolis, Chicago, Columbus, etc.) to share lessons learned and best practices.

### **Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)**

NRDC<sup>4</sup> works at the federal, state, and local levels to address the challenge of food waste in the United States through their Food Matters Initiative. According to NRDC, an estimated 40 percent of food in the United States is wasted, contributing to extensive environmental, economic, and societal impacts. The City of Cincinnati has been a partner with NRDC since 2019, working together to achieve both the United States' goal (and goal of GCP) of reducing food waste by 50 percent by 2030. NRDC advocates that cities lead by example and have identified several ways in which municipal government can institute policies that have a positive impact throughout municipal operations. Best practices that address municipal buildings and properties as well as municipal departments that serve food include:

1. Requiring organic waste collection at all municipal offices, buildings, and municipally leased properties
2. Providing organics recycling collection bins alongside trash bins in public spaces
3. Requiring future municipal construction projects to include room for organics recycling bins in collection areas (e.g., communal spaces, loading docks)
4. Measuring food waste generation
5. Donating surplus food
6. Offering various sized portions
7. Eliminating trays and buffets
8. Implementing “offer versus serve” protocols
9. Collecting food scraps for recycling.

Procurement-specific food best practice waste policies identified by NRDC include:

1. Building a vendor outreach list that includes vendors that participate in surplus food donation and food scrap recycling; and
2. Prioritizing local compost purchasing and use for landscaping, construction, roads, highways, stormwater management, and green infrastructure.

Additionally, NRDC recommends cities consider requirements for businesses, universities, other large organizations, city departments, and city contractors to report on food waste generated, surplus food donated, and food scraps recycled.

Nashville, a pilot city for NRDC, created the Nashville Food Waste Initiative Project (NFWI) in 2019. NFWI's goal is to engage governments, consumers, restaurants, community institutions, and retailers to prevent food waste, rescue surplus food to direct to people in need, and compost and digest what is left to help build healthy soil. Utilizing such efforts as Save the Food Campaign, the Mayor's Food Saver Challenge,

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<sup>4</sup> [Natural Resources Defense Council Food Matters](#)

the Food Waste Measurement Project, Reducing Food Waste in Colleges, Food Waste Education Events, and Food Rescue Expansion, Nashville has served as a model for other cities in their approach, and Cincinnati has utilized many of the same practices over the years. Also, Nashville is home to the Urban Green Lab, a Nashville-based nonprofit that is part of the NFWI leadership team teaching communities how to live sustainable lives, organizing its goals through innovative programming in local classrooms, households, and workplaces. NFWI serves on Metro Nashville's Solid Waste Master Plan Task Force, which advises the City on the development of its long-range plan to achieve zero waste to landfills through organics recycling and other measures.

*Opportunities to strengthen alignment in Cincinnati include:*

1. Include food waste in the assessment of Cincinnati food policy and procurement practices.
2. Conduct food waste audits at city facilities to better understand the nature of waste streams and measure progress towards reduction.
3. Minimize food waste at City facility and programming utilizing practices such as share tables, prevention education, and composting.
4. Include optional donation opportunities and mandatory organic waste collection at large capacity city-leased facilities
5. Include sustainability metrics for city procurement vendors and provide training to increase best practices.

### **Good Food Purchasing Program**

The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP)<sup>5</sup> is a coordinated local-national initiative that encourages large institutions to utilize procurement to direct their buying power toward five core values – local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare and nutrition. The GFPP provides a flexible framework to support cities in creating benchmarks for procurement around the five values. In January 2019, the Cincinnati Board of Education unanimously voted in favor of a resolution to adopt the GFPP in Cincinnati Public Schools, setting a percentage goal for purchasing within the GFPP framework. The City of Cincinnati has not adopted the GFPP but does consider prioritizing local SBEs in catering contracts for city events.

In June 2017, the Chicago Public School Board voted to adopt the Good Food Purchasing Program as part of its wellness policy and the City of Chicago followed soon after with adoption in October 2017. The initiative was led by the Chicago Department of Public Health, Cook County Department of Public Health, and the Chicago Food Policy Action Council. In May 2018, the Cook County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to adopt the Good Food Purchasing

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<sup>5</sup> [Good Food Purchasing Program](#)

Program. Goals included implementation of GFPP practices, supply chain development, and creation of good food culture.

New York City adopted the GFPP in February 2022 to drive change across local and regional food systems with their purchasing power, utilizing public dollars spent on food. NYC has governance over many more food purchasing access points than Cincinnati including the public school system, public hospitals, correctional system facilities, homeless shelters, food pantry networks, and senior home delivery meals.

*Opportunities to strengthen alignment in Cincinnati include:*

1. Identify opportunities for GFPP implementation within City food practices.
2. Explore partnership with Hamilton County to support GFPP implementation within heavy food purchasing entities such as hospitals, correctional facilities, meal programs etc.
3. Support environmentally sustainable agriculture practices and opportunities within the region to address local supply chain development.
4. Seek and/or leverage funds and public-private partnerships for regenerative agriculture training and education for urban producers.
5. Understand that enforcement of any proposed recommendations may be limited due to no governing jurisdiction.

cc: Jason Barron, Director, Cincinnati Parks  
Daniel Betts, Director, Cincinnati Recreation Commission  
Laura Castillo, Chief Procurement Officer, Office of Procurement  
Oliver Kroner, Director, Office of Environment and Sustainability  
Dr. Grant Mussman, Health Commissioner, Cincinnati Health Department

June 4, 2025

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

202501139

Subject: **City Support for Immigrant Communities**

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### **Reference Document #202500171**

The Council at its session on January 28, 2025, referred the following item for review and report.

**MOTION**, submitted by Vice Mayor Jan Michele Lemon Kearney, **WE MOVE** that the administration within 90 days on ways that the City currently is supporting our immigrant communities and feasibility of suggestions such as the following:

1. Create a “Know Your Rights” reference in multiple languages including but not limited to Spanish and English on the City’s website to help immigrant families.
2. Create a link on the City’s website to Compass and other resource groups.
3. Create a Hispanic Employee Resource Group to meet monthly and address ways to increase Hispanic Representation across all departments
4. Create information on the City’s website about anti-bullying programs in schools as well as the process for reporting and addressing hate crimes.

This report by the City Manager’s Office (CMO) will summarize how the City of Cincinnati is supporting our immigrant communities with the feasibility of various suggestions.

### **EXISTING SUPPORT**

#### **CURRENT FUNDING:**

The City offers a wide range of funding opportunities for organizations that serve our immigrant communities. The funding for years 2024 and 2025 include the following:

Catholic Charities:

- \$94,600 for Workforce Development for New Americans – Human Services Funding
- Director Deanna White is a member of their Refugee Resettlement Services Quarterly Consultation Committee

COMPASS:

- \$50,000 in Leveraged Support Funding

Immigrant & Refugee Law Center:

(Link: [Know Your Rights — Immigrant and Refugee Law Center](#))

- \$58,000 Employment Initiative for Immigrants and Refugees – Human Services Funding
- \$50,000 in Leveraged Support Funding

Price Hill Will

- \$57,194 for MYCincinnati in Human Services Funding

Refugee Connect:

- \$25,000 Boots on the Ground Funding

Santa Maria:

- \$90,000 for Lower Price Hill Collaborative – Human Services Funding
- \$80,000 for Stable Families – Human Services Funding
- \$75,500 for Workforce Development Program – Human Services Funding
- \$125,000 in Leveraged Support Funding

### **FUTURE FUNDING:**

In addition, the Requests for Proposal for 2 of the 3 FY26 Human Services service categories specifically mentioned immigrants as a priority population:

#### **Workforce Development:**

Through this priority, Council seeks to fund projects that place special emphasis on working with target populations that experience elevated barriers to employment including, but not limited to people without steady work histories, with former justice involvement, *immigrants*, single parents, and people with disabling conditions.

#### **Supporting, Securing, and Stabilizing Housing for High-Risk Populations**

Through this priority, Council is looking to fund programs supporting populations who experience homelessness at disproportionately higher rates due to systemic inequities, historical discrimination, and ongoing barriers to housing access including, but not limited to the chronically homeless, senior citizens, those with mental illness or substance use disorders, *immigrants*, LGBTQIA+ youth, those with former justice-involvement, and families with dependent children.

### **FEASIBILITY OF SUGGESTIONS:**

1. Create a “Know Your Rights” reference in multiple languages including but not limited to Spanish and English on the City’s website to help immigrant families.

A “Know Your Rights” reference is currently available. Locally, the legal staff at Catholic Social Services, the Immigrant and Refugee Law Center, and the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati have collaborated to create and distribute a Know Your Rights booklet in English and Spanish. The alliance is also providing community trainings in both languages about the materials.

2. Create a link on the City’s website to Compass and other resource groups.

Cincinnati Compass is a collaborative project of the Cincinnati Regional Chamber and more than 65 community partners. Compass focuses their work in areas of workforce and small business development, civic engagement, and creating a sense of belonging for new and long-term residents. They work with providers and employers across sectors to help them enhance their capacity and develop strategies to serve and hire immigrant and refugee communities.

In addition to funding for Compass, the City also provides funding to the programming at the following immigrant service organizations: Catholic Charities, Refugee Connect, Santa Maria, the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati, Price Hill Will, the Islamic Center, and the Immigrant and Refugee Law Center. Each of the organizations has websites with information about their specific services. If there are questions regarding these resources, we will direct individuals to the appropriate site for that organization. In review of peer cities, it is uncommon to list all community partners on a city's site. The City is only responsible for the content on its website and would not be able to ensure outside organizations are keeping their websites up to date. It would be untenable for City staff to ensure all organizations are represented and the information is current.

3. Create a Hispanic Employee Resource Group to meet monthly and address ways to increase Hispanic Representation across all departments

The City of Cincinnati is committed to being a welcoming and inclusive workplace. Employee Resource Groups (ERG) inspire the work needed to create and sustain diverse and inclusive focused goals. When an internal community of employees with shared identities and interests is interested in creating an ERG, the City has a toolkit that outlines the step-by-step process for forming an ERG, which includes the group application. This information is available on City Matters: [HR - Employee Resource Groups - citymatters](#) and can also be obtained by contacting the Director of Human Resources.

4. Create information on the City's website:

(a) about anti-bullying programs in schools,

- Ohio law requires schools and districts to adopt policies prohibiting harassment, intimidation, and bullying. The City recommends directing families to the resources of their specific school district. [Anti-Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Resources | Ohio Department of Education and Workforce](#)
- Cincinnati Public Schools has an online portal for adults and children to report any incidence of bullying: [Bullying Information - Cincinnati Public Schools](#)

(b) as well as the process for reporting and addressing hate crimes.

- This process for reporting and addressing hate crimes for 3 motions: this Motion, Motion #202402433 and Motion #202500166 was shared at the Public Safety and Governance Committee meeting on April 29, 2025.

cc: John Brazina, Interim Assistant City Manager  
Deanna White, Director of Human Services

20250132

**Date:** May 29, 2025

**To:** Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney  
**From:** Emily Smart Woerner, City Solicitor *EESW*  
**Subject:** **Ordinance – LGBTQIA+ Commission Ordinance**

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Transmitted herewith is an ordinance captioned as follows:

**ESTABLISHING** Cincinnati’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and other sexual and gender identities (“LGBTQIA+”) Commission, to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor, Council, and the Administration on all issues of concern for LGBTQIA+ individuals within Cincinnati.

EESW/CNS(dbr)  
Attachment  
417271

# City of Cincinnati

CNS

EESW

## An Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_

- 2025

**ESTABLISHING** Cincinnati’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and other sexual and gender identities (“LGBTQIA+”) Commission, to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor, Council, and the Administration on all issues of concern for LGBTQIA+ individuals within Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, the Mayor, Council, and the Administration are committed to working with individuals who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and other sexual and gender identities (“LGBTQIA+”) to more comprehensively address the Cincinnati LGBTQIA+ community’s concerns and needs; and

WHEREAS, a formally-appointed LGBTQIA+ Commission will help broaden the perspectives of those presently serving in City government; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, Council, and the Administration value enacting legislation and policies that advance social, economic, and political equality for the Cincinnati LGBTQIA+ community and believe incorporating those ideas will make Cincinnati a better place; and

WHEREAS, the Commission will provide LGBTQIA+ individuals with additional opportunities to play a valuable role within the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the City values the input of agencies and organizations who work on LGBTQIA+ issues and seeks to have such groups represented on the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Cincinnati LGBTQIA+ Commission will assist the Mayor, Council, and the Administration in their review of policies and programs that will make a positive change in the lives of LGBTQIA+ individuals; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Cincinnati Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and other sexual and gender identities (“LGBTQIA+”) Commission is established to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor, Council, and the Administration on all issues of concern for LGBTQIA+ individuals within Cincinnati. The Commission shall:

1. Serve as an advisory body to the Mayor, Council, and the Administration on issues affecting the LGBTQIA+ community;
2. Serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, Council, and the Administration with the aim of improving the ability of the City and its contractors to serve, support, and employ members of the LGBTQIA+ community;

3. Recommend to the Mayor, Council, and the Administration measures designed to enhance the health, safety, economic opportunity and affordability, mobility, cultural and learning opportunities, and government access and accountability for the LGBTQIA+ community;
4. Coordinate and participate in educational programs to promote equal treatment, opportunity, and understanding of persons within the LGBTQIA+ community, and facilitate events to improve understanding and craft solutions for issues of concern to the LGBTQIA+ community;
5. Collaborate with other City boards and commissions to address issues of intersectionality, as appropriate;
6. Create, guide, support, and evaluate LGBTQIA+ quality of life initiatives; and
7. Report in person to the Healthy Neighborhoods Committee of Council at least annually, or another appropriate committee of Council in the event the Healthy Neighborhoods Committee is disbanded.

Section 2. That the LGBTQIA+ Commission shall consist of eleven members. Of initial appointments, six members shall be appointed for terms of two years, and the remaining five members shall be appointed for terms of one year. Thereafter all members shall be appointed for terms of two years. All members shall serve without compensation. Members may serve for no more than two consecutive two-year terms, excluding members who were appointed for an initial one-year term and excluding any partial term when a member is appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term. After serving two full consecutive two-year terms, members are eligible for reelection after a one-year absence from the Commission.

Section 3. The Mayor shall appoint members of the LGBTQIA+ Commission after receiving recommendations from the existing Commission and from the public at-large. The initial members of the Commission shall be recommended by the initial advisory group that proposed the creation of the Commission, with input from stakeholders that support LGBTQIA+ interests. Members shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to Council approval.

1. The LGBTQIA+ Commission shall consist of eleven voting members that must satisfy the following specifications:

- a. One representative from Greater Cincinnati Human Rights Campaign (HRC);
  - b. One representative from Cincinnati Pride;
  - c. One representative from Caracole;
  - d. One representative from Cincinnati Black Pride;
  - e. One representative from TreeHouse Cincinnati, Inc.; and
  - f. Six at-large members.
2. These appointments shall endeavor to mirror a diversity of ethnicity, national origin, race, color, disability, gender, gender ideology, sexual orientation, age, and socioeconomic level. The Commission should include members who are broadly reflective of and sensitive to the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community's diverse population and residents of multiple Cincinnati neighborhoods.
  3. Of the six at-large members appointed to the Commission, at least three must be residents of the City.
  4. The City Manager may appoint a City liaison who is knowledgeable about the procedures and methods of operations of the various City departments to serve as a non-voting member of the LGBTQIA+ Commission and to advise on how best to coordinate the Commission's efforts with the Administration.
  5. The Commission shall be authorized to adopt rules and procedures to govern how it shall conduct its affairs, provided that the adopted rules and procedures may not conflict with state law or the municipal code. The rules and procedures shall be reviewed by the Commission in conjunction with the City Solicitor's Office from time to time.
  6. If a position on the Commission is prematurely vacated, that position shall be filled at the earliest possible time through appointment of a person having qualifications for that vacated position and to complete the remainder of the succeeded member's term.
  7. The Commission shall select its officers. However, the initial Chair of the Commission shall be appointed by the Mayor.
  8. The Commission may recommend to the Mayor that a Commission member be removed for cause upon a majority vote of seated members. Cause includes, but is not limited to, a member's absence at two consecutive meetings, or three combined absences from meetings in a one-year period.

Section 4. That the Cincinnati LGBTQIA+ Commission shall meet a minimum of six times per year at a time and place to be determined by the Commission. A majority of seated voting

members, present in-person or virtually, shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary for the transaction of business.

Section 5. That the Cincinnati LGBTQIA+ Commission shall convene no later than 120 days after the effective date of this ordinance and is encouraged to report back to the Mayor, Council, and Administration within six months to present its initial recommendations.

Section 6. That any meetings of the LGBTQIA+ Commission shall be subject to the Ohio Open Meetings Act (R.C. 121.22 et seq.) and Ohio Open Records Law (R.C. 149.43 et seq.).

Section 7. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

207501051  
**Date:** May 21, 2025

**To:** Councilmember Scotty Johnson  
**From:** Emily Smart Woerner, City Solicitor *EESW*  
**Subject:** **Ordinance - Honorary Street Renaming - Verdin Bell Way**

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Transmitted herewith is an ordinance captioned as follows:

**DECLARING** that Pendleton Street at 12<sup>th</sup> Street in the Pendleton neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of “Verdin Bell Way” in honor of The Verdin Company and their 183-year legacy of craftsmanship, innovation, and service in the City of Cincinnati.

EESW/JRS(dbr)  
Attachment  
420747

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

JRS  
EESW

An Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_

- 2025

**DECLARING** that Pendleton Street at 12<sup>th</sup> Street in the Pendleton neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of “Verdin Bell Way” in honor of The Verdin Company and their 183-year legacy of craftsmanship, innovation, and service in the City of Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, The Verdin Company, founded in 1842 by two immigrant brothers in the City of Cincinnati, has been a cornerstone of craftsmanship and innovation in the manufacturing of bells, clocks, and towers for 183 years; and

WHEREAS, The Verdin Company’s first documented installation was a clock and bell at Old St. Mary’s Church in 1842; and

WHEREAS, now in its sixth generation of family leadership, The Verdin Company is one of the nation’s oldest family-owned manufacturers, with a national and international reputation for quality and service; and

WHEREAS, with over 55,000 installations across churches, universities, municipalities, and businesses throughout the country, The Verdin Company has left an indelible mark on communities near and far; and

WHEREAS, the company remains rooted in tradition while embracing modern technology, currently led by sixth-generation Verdin family members, who continue to uphold the values of craftsmanship, service, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, The Verdin Company is known for innovated designs including the electric clock winder in 1910, the first electric bell ringer in 1927, the largest swing cast bell in America, and the only traveling bell foundry in the world; and

WHEREAS, The Verdin Company built Newport’s World Peace Bell, the foot piano at Smale Park, and the bell that signals the opening and closing of trading at the New York Stock Exchange; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to honor The Verdin Company’s enduring contributions to the community and to the nation’s cultural and manufacturing heritage by naming a street in its honor; and

WHEREAS, The Verdin Company has made a lasting impact to the Cincinnati community and to the City of Cincinnati’s citizens, and its impact on the Cincinnati community will long be remembered; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That Pendleton Street at 12<sup>th</sup> Street in the Pendleton neighborhood shall hereby receive the honorary, secondary name of “Verdin Bell Way” in honor of The Verdin Company and in recognition of impact on the Cincinnati community and its 183-year legacy of craftsmanship, innovation, and service.

Section 2. That the appropriate City officials are hereby authorized to do all things necessary and proper to implement the provisions of Section 1 herein, including the generation and installation of appropriate secondary street signage, which shall designate Pendleton Street at 12<sup>th</sup> Street as “Verdin Bell Way” in accordance with the Department of Transportation and Engineering’s procedures relating to street designation and related signage.

Section 3. That a copy of this ordinance be sent to The Verdin Company via the office of Councilmember Scotty Johnson.

Section 4. 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 allow the Department of Transportation and Engineering to move forward with the administrative requirements related to the honorary naming of streets to provide for the ceremony and dedication of the honorary street name at the earliest possible time.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk