



Mayor Aftab Pureval

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Dear Members of Council:

I am transmitting to you a copy of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Update for your review. Our City is also making a copy of this document available to the general public on the website.

This budget is the product of our City Government's commitment to empowering communities to voice their challenges and needs. On April 4th, City Council's Budget and Finance Committee held the first ever public hearing to gather feedback prior to the City Manager's office finalizing a recommended budget. The City Administration has also held three virtual meetings with residents and community councils to discuss the structure and process for the budget, in addition to providing opportunities for input. In this budget, our City is taking action on the priorities of Cincinnatians.

We are making a strong and necessary commitment to public safety, with funding for two classes of Fire recruits – for a record number of 100 recruits – and two classes of Police recruits. We're also committing to innovation, implementing a data-driven program to provide unarmed mental health professionals for some non-violent 911 calls. On top of our support for public safety resources, we're making a record investment in youth employment and new career initiatives, to disrupt the pathways to violence and provide our children with the opportunity to build professional skills.

The budget reflects our values of incentivizing economic growth with equity at the center of the frame. This is our *Visionnati*. We're stepping up to support organizations that help provide capital and training for Black and brown-owned businesses, which will be pivotal to our growth as a diverse, vibrant economy: organizations like Represent, the African American Chamber of Commerce, MORTAR, ArtsWave Black and Brown Artists Fund, and the Hillman Accelerator.

Our City's core mission is to help support everyone's opportunity to build a healthy, rewarding life. That's why this budget increases our investment in Human Services to a record high of 1.6% of the City's General Fund, amounting to an additional \$2 million over the previous budget. It's also why the budget includes game-changing funding to support and promote the childcare provider workforce.

Importantly, we are able to accomplish these goals without making cuts to our operating budget. Cities like ours have faced unprecedented budgetary challenges due to the impact of changing economic conditions, brought on by COVID-19, on our earnings tax revenue. As we collectively work to adapt to these challenges, we are making important decisions to ensure our fiscal sustainability while making critical investments in building our future.

In this budget, our City is setting aside \$72 million of the \$139 million in the second tranche of federal American Rescue Plan dollars. While the City's revenue projections have dramatically improved from previous forecasts, we will use these reserved ARP funds to protect basic services during projected operating budget deficits through 2025.

At the same time, we are leveraging the remaining \$67 million of ARP funds to make a bold investment in our future. This package of capital investments will address critical deferred maintenance of our parks, recreation centers, health centers and facilities, and other city facilities. It will support expanded sidewalk and road repairs, while providing funding for crucial pedestrian safety measures surrounding our schools. It will help in our effort to provide public safety workers with the resources and training they need, with investments in the development of a relocated regional safety complex, a new Fire Training Tower, and renovation of our public safety facilities.

While our spending ensures that we are supporting a safe, healthy Cincinnati today, we are also looking to the future: from a record investment in broadband to help our neighborhoods close the digital divide, to a continued commitment to furthering the goals of the Green Cincinnati Plan, to historic funding for ready-to-build sites that can attract the high-tech manufacturing that will help us thrive in the modern economy.

In addition to these capital investments, I will be introducing ordinances alongside this budget to allocate previously ineligible FY21 ARP funds: \$500,000 towards Represent, an organization dedicated to promoting a diverse entrepreneurial community, \$250,000 to expand our work to address litter, dumping, and blight, and fulfilling a \$1 million investment in BLINK Cincinnati.

Our budget is a reflection of our values and our priorities. Thanks to clear and transparent cooperation between this Council, my office, and the City Administration, we have a community-informed budget that helps drive Cincinnati towards a bright future.

Our collective work to seek public feedback is not finished, and I look forward to continued community engagement and a thoughtful deliberation in Council.

Sincerely,



Mayor Aftab Pureval,
City of Cincinnati