



# AFTAB PUREVAL

City of Cincinnati, Office of the Mayor

**May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

Dear Members of Council:

I am transmitting to you a copy of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Update for your review. The City Administration is also making a copy of this document available to the public on the website.

As we have collectively experienced, our City's post-Covid financial planning has required a critical balance: take the necessary measures to ensure our fiscal health and sustain our basic services, while also investing in the growth and economic development our local economy and communities will need in order to succeed long-term. Last budget cycle, thanks to the forward-thinking decision-making by our City Administration and colleagues on Council, we delivered a structurally balanced budget without the use of American Rescue Plan funds.

In the face of an initial operating deficit of nearly \$30 million, we are once again balancing the budget – through the benefits of our past work to diversify and boost revenues, through our Administration's shrewd financial management, and through challenging work across departments to find efficiencies without sacrificing service delivery. The budget we now consider reflects our preparation for this moment, the reality that projected expenses continue to outpace projected revenue, and the importance of aggressively investing in growth throughout our neighborhoods.

While this fiscal year poses challenging financial decisions, we are able to support our shared, core priorities. The City has once again increased our pension contribution to ensure employees are taken care of, in preparation for the landmark path forward on our pension fund approved by Council earlier this year. We are making new investments in public safety, including expanded funding for the CPD drone program, new gear and funding for CFD health screenings. And thanks to the continued growth of the Railway Trust, our Cincy on Track initiative continues to empower investments in key facilities and infrastructure – including funds toward our planned replacement of two Fire Stations, historically significant street paving and rehabilitation dollars, and our ongoing support of the Dunham Recreation Center renovation project.

These investments go hand-in-hand with strategic process improvements implemented under our City Manager's leadership. This budget includes allocations for new purchasing and project management staff, to go along with updated contracting procedures, aimed at getting our infrastructure dollars out the door and into our neighborhoods as quickly and equitably as possible.

As we consider, finalize, and approve the details in this budget – and as we look ahead to the initiatives our City is implementing throughout our communities – I am confident that our Council, Administration, and my office have a collective understanding of what is presently at stake. Resource allocation is the foundation of how we execute on our values. As we face difficult choices, we can and will continue to advance our goals while steadying our long-term fiscal outlook.

Alongside the Administration's recommended budget, I am proposing supplemental support for community-level programming, through the Safe and Clean Fund, Boots on the Ground, and our leveraged support process. I am allocating funds for Blink and Black Tech Week, two trademark special events that provide significant cultural and economic benefit to our city. And I am proposing a million-dollar allocation for a new disparity study, to gain an updated picture of where our contracting and economic development tools can and should be reviewed. Additionally, my recommended adjustment includes a capital allocation for physical public safety improvements on Fountain Square.

Finally, in response to the Administration's financial analysis and recommendations surrounding potential City investment in the Farmer Music Center project, I am adjusting the recommended allocation to \$2 million from the baseline \$6.5 million in the City Manager's budget. However, the deployment of these funds will be conditional on a guaranteed level of tax revenue over the first 10 years, to be negotiated with MEMI with the goal of ensuring a positive return on our investment. As our Administration continues to work in earnest with the partners over the project, we are also proposing to MEMI that the City purchase key, developable land adjacent to the project at a fair market value – to secure our interests in future growth in the area.

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

Sincerely,



**Aftab Pureval**

Mayor, City of Cincinnati

Mayor's FY Recommended Budget Update Adjustments	Amount
<b>Operating</b>	
Leveraged Support (One-Time)	85,425
<b>Total Leveraged Support (One-Time)</b>	<b>\$85,425</b>
<b>Public Safety/Community Support</b>	
Boots on the Gound Fund	\$100,000
Safe and Clean	\$100,000
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
<b>Special Events</b>	
Blink	\$1,000,000
Black Tech Week	\$100,000
<b>Total Special Events</b>	<b>\$1,100,000</b>
<b>Economic Development</b>	
Disparity Study	\$1,000,000
<b>Total Economic Development</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>\$2,385,425</b>
<b>Capital</b>	
<b>Economic Development/Neighborhood Stability</b>	
Music & Event Management, Inc (MEMI)*	\$2,000,000
Fountain Square Public Safety Improvements	\$500,000
<b>Total Economic Development/Neighborhood Stability</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$4,885,425</b>

\*Adjustment of the recommended allocation to \$2 million from the baseline \$6.5 million in the City Manager's Recommended Budget