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**Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney**  
*Vice Mayor*

October 6, 2023

**Motion to Ensure Equity  
in the Disbursement of Proceeds  
from the Sale of the Cincinnati Southern Railway**

WE MOVE that the City of Cincinnati Administration take the following actions to ensure equity in the disbursement of the proceeds of the sale of the Cincinnati Southern Railway and other funding sources so that our underserved neighborhoods benefit from the proceeds from the sale in terms of both existing infrastructure and new economic development opportunities:

1. The City shall analyze the demographics of the beneficiaries most directly affected by each proposed project and identify those projects that can deliver the most benefit to historically underserved minority and low-income communities.
2. The City shall create a dashboard on the City's website to create transparency with the spending of the proceeds from the sale of the Cincinnati Southern Railway, and that dashboard shall track each project, including but not limited to providing information on neighborhood, demographics served, and amount invested.
3. The City shall create **two funds** to ensure that our 15 most underserved neighborhoods benefit from the proceeds of the sale of the CSR as follows:
  - a. Demographic and socioeconomic data for Cincinnati's neighborhoods was used to create the "Rising 15": the 15 neighborhoods most in need of economic benefits, as shown by **Exhibit A** attached hereto.

**b. FUND 1 (the “Rising 15 Railroad Fund”):** In addition to inclusion in the infrastructure plans across all neighborhoods, the City will allocate at least 10% of the annual return on investment on the proceeds from the sale of the CSR to the Rising 15 Railroad Fund. *The population of the Rising 15 neighborhoods comprise approximately 20% of the City’s population. The 10% minimum is based on the fact that some of the infrastructure projects, such as renovation of healthcare centers, directly affect residents of the Rising 15 neighborhoods although they are not located in those neighborhoods.*

- 1) **Community Advisory Committee:** After receiving applications through a public and transparent process, the Mayor shall appoint seven (7) community members to a community advisory committee.
- 2) Expenditures must be restricted to projects that meet the statutory criteria for the use of proceeds from the sale of the CSR.
- 3) City Council will vote on the Community Advisory Committee’s recommendations.

**c. Second Fund (“Rising 15 Economic Development Fund”) to create economic development opportunities in our underserved neighborhoods:**

- 1) The source of funding for the Rising 15 Economic Development Fund shall be an initial allocation of \$15 million from one or more of the following sources: the City’s General Capital Budget, the FY ’23 carryover budget, and/or federal infrastructure funds. In addition, there shall be an annual allocation of at least \$3 million from the City’s General Capital Budget.
- 2) The Community Advisory Committee will make recommendations to City Council on economic development projects for the Rising 15 neighborhoods, based on requests from stakeholders in the neighborhoods as well as the City Administration.
- 3) City Council will vote on the Community Advisory Committee’s recommendations.

**4. Economic Inclusion:** City Council adopted an equitable development model in February 2023 as a pilot for the Convention Center. This model shall apply to projects funded through the sale of the railroad, including a minimum inclusion of:

- a. 20% MBE and 10% WBE businesses annually in projects funded with the railway sale dollars.
- b. Joint ventures with developers that include minority-owned or women-owned developers shall be encouraged to meet the diversity & inclusion goals.
- c. The City administration shall create an access to capital fund for minority-owned and women-owned businesses.
- d. The City shall proactively work to assist minority-owned and women-owned businesses to overcome the barrier of first-time bonding.

5. **Annual Report:** The City will provide an annual report to City Council on the results of the expenditures in the Rising 15 neighborhoods.

*Scott Johnson*

*Jan-Michael Lemoine*

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