



July 19, 2026

Memorandum For:

Cincinnati City Council
Todd Zinser
Todd Zinser

From:

Subject :

Collaborative Agreement Refresh

Please find attached an October 20, 2025, email that I sent to the Mayor, the City Council and the City Manager concerning the status of the 2017 Collaborative Agreement Refresh.

The email contained a recommendation, now 9 months ago, that the city, as a priority, update the "Collaborative Agreement Refresh," with a new formally adopted agreement.

The City is Actually Proposing a Refresh of the 2017 Collaborative Refresh

The City initiated a Collaborative Agreement Refresh 9 years ago in 2017. It contracted with Attorney Saul Green, who served as the court-appointed monitor of the original Collaborative Agreement. He was asked to assess the progress of the Collaborative. Attorney Green and his team issued 3 reports during 2017 and 2018.

On November 9, 2017, Attorney Green issued his first report titled, "City of Cincinnati Collaborative Agreement Mutual Accountability of All Parties." On page 19, Mr. Green was critical of the City, reporting that the city had not developed the analytic tools necessary to "assess bias."

This is relevant today because Campaign Zero has developed such an analytic tool and carried out the type of analysis that Attorney Green was calling for 9 years ago.

As noted below, I believe that such a tool was, in fact, developed by the University of Cincinnati, Institute of Crime Science in 2021, under contract with the City. But it appears that the City either did not accept the tool or has never applied it.

After 2020, Efforts on the 2017 Collaborative Agreement Refresh, Fell Off a Cliff

- In July 2018, the Innovation Lab issued, "Collaborative Agreement Refresh Master Plan."

- In July 2019, the City's Collaborative Agreement Sustainability Manager issued a "2019 Refresh Program Plan Update,"
- Also In July 2019, the UC team held a kick off meeting for its contract to develop an analytics tool in response to Attorney Green's recommendation.
- In August 2019, the City Manager, at the time, issued a memo to City Council concerning the "Collaborative Agreement Update and Path Forward."
- In November 2020, the UC team issued an Update Memo that projected it would complete its development of an analytics tool on or about March 1, 2021. I requested records related to UC's contract and the analytics tool on June 28, 2026, but the request remains open.
- After 2020, the management of the Collaborative Agreement seems to have fallen off a cliff. The regular communications to the public by the CPD and the MAG about the progress and accomplishments of the Collaborative were no longer updated on the city's website.

Collaborative Agreement Sustainability Consultant

In May 2023, the City entered into a professional services, no-bid, contract for a Collaborative Agreement Sustainability Consultant. The services required under the contract included:

"Drafting and delivering a summary report to the City Manager regarding the status of the 2017 Collaborative Refresh recommendations that have been accomplished and those that are outstanding and working collaboratively with the incoming Chief of Police and the incoming City Manager to develop a facilitative plan moving forward."

Such a report would be particularly useful now that the City has announced what is actually a "Refresh," of the Refresh. However, it appears that more than 3 years later, the contractor has not delivered any such report. In response to a records request on August 6, 2025, and a follow up request on May 2, 2026, the City has not provided any documents responsive to my requests, yet they consider the requests completed.

Conclusion

At a minimum, City Council should determine what happened to the 2017 Collaborative Agreement Refresh, including a determination as to what happened to the contract with the University of Cincinnati, Institute of Crime Science and the analytics tool it more than likely produced for the City.

Collaborative Agreement Refresh

From: Todd Zinser (toddzinser@yahoo.com)

To: mayor.atab@cincinnati-oh.gov; citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov; clerkofcouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov

Cc: citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov

Date: Monday, October 20, 2025 at 02:06 PM EDT

Dear Mayor Pureval and
Members of City Council,

This is to recommend that the city, as a priority, update the Collaborative Agreement "Refresh," with a **new, formally adopted agreement**. The original Collaborative Agreement is more than 20 years old and is no longer legally binding. The "Refresh," does not seem to be currently well-defined, clearly documented, nor commonly understood. In fact, there is no formal agreement of any type any longer.

I have attached a memorandum dated August 12, 2019, sent at the time, to the mayor and council, by then City Manager Patrick A. Duhaney. The memo is styled as "Collaborative Agreement 'Refresh' Update and Path Forward." Mr. Duhaney's announcement followed substantial work by Saul Green, the federal court-appointed monitor for the original settlement. Under a new contract, Mr. Green produced 3 reports in 2018 evaluating the status the city's Refresh.

The memo included a 16-page attachment dated July 30, 2019, titled, "City of Cincinnati, Office of the City Manager, 2019 Refresh Program Plan Update." The plan was developed by the city's former Collaborative Agreement Sustainability Manager. There does not appear to be any publicly available updates about the city's implementation of the 2019 plan.

Since 2020, except for recognizing the 20th anniversary of the agreement, there is little information on the city's website about the current status of the Collaborative Agreement nor the "Refresh." The CPD stopped publicly updating it's "Collaborative Agreement Timeline," in February 2020. And the city manager stopped publicly updating the website for the Management Advisory Group, a year earlier in February 2019.

The city's May 4, 2023, contract with Iris Roley LLC includes several deliverables, one of which requires:

Drafting and delivering a summary report to the city manager regarding the status of the 2017 Collaborative Refresh recommendations that have been accomplished and those that are outstanding and working collaboratively with the incoming Chief of Police and the incoming City Manager to develop a facilitative plan moving forward.

Since the contract requirement is nearly 2 ½ years old, the "summary report" and "facilitative plan" should at least be available to the city council even though the documents have not yet been released in response to my records request.

The 2019 plan along with the summary report and facilitative plan required by the city's contract with Iris Roley, LLC could serve as key source documents in a formal "Refresh" agreement.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss or if you think there is a role that I could play in developing such a formal "Refresh" agreement.

Respectively,

Todd Zinser



collaborative path forward memo 8.12.19.pdf
182.9 kB



collaborative refresh plan update 2019.pdf
423.8 kB