



June 12, 2026

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager *SM*

Subject: Creation of the Department of Economic Inclusion and Procurement

City Council recently approved the creation of the Department of Economic Inclusion and Procurement. Effective September 1, 2026, the new department will bring together the current Department of Economic Inclusion and Office of Procurement under a single department while maintaining dedicated divisions for both functions.

The new structure is intended to improve coordination between Procurement and Economic Inclusion, strengthen oversight of City contracts, increase transparency into City spending, and create additional opportunities for small, local, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses.

This change reflects the Administration's continued commitment to Economic Inclusion and builds upon the progress made over the last several years. Economic Inclusion will remain a dedicated division with staff focused on certification, compliance, outreach, business development, and workforce initiatives. The goal of this reorganization is not to change the mission of Economic Inclusion, but to strengthen collaboration between the teams responsible for planning, procuring, and monitoring City contracts. By bringing Procurement and Economic Inclusion together under one department, Economic Inclusion will be positioned to engage earlier in project planning and procurement discussions.

The Economic Inclusion Advisory and Advocacy Board (EIAAB) will continue serving as an advisory body to the City and an important partner in advancing Economic Inclusion initiatives.

Over the coming months, staff will continue working through implementation planning to support the transition ahead of the September 1 effective date.

The City has made significant progress in expanding opportunities for small, local, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses over the last several years. This new department builds on that work by bringing together two teams that already collaborate closely, allowing us to improve coordination, strengthen accountability, and continue creating opportunities for Cincinnati's business community.

cc: Cathy B. Bailey, Interim Assistant City Manager
Laura Castillo, Interim Director, Procurement
Lydgia Sartor, Interim Director, Department of Economic Inclusion