



Office of Mayor John Cranley

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Dear Members of Council:

I transmit the budget for your consideration, together with City Manager Duhaney.

Despite unprecedented challenges and the short-term recession, this budget is about growth, small business support, civil rights, and better public health.

Our city's renaissance will not overcome the pandemic if we just batten down the hatches and wait it out. We must reach out, stabilize our small businesses, and bring new jobs to our city.

First, today we are announcing a unique investment of \$1 million in the Urban League to work with small businesses like nail salons and barber shops that have been hurt by the shutdowns.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and small black businesses are the key to making our city's promise of inclusive growth a reality. It is a race against time, but I know Eddie Koen is fast and we are here to tag team. This effort is on top of the great idea by council to work with AACC and MORTAR.

We also will continue our growth strategies that have served us so well, with AACC, REDI, the Port, etc. You are either growing or dying and we are still investing in growing.

Second, in light of the inspiring events of the last 15 days, we are fully funding the CCA. Let the sun shine in. Our commitment to civil right must allow people who believe they have been wronged their day of truth.

Third, we are lucky that Cincinnati has such a historic commitment to public health, but coronavirus has reminded us that we need the right permanent infrastructure of public health. I've asked Commissioner Melba Moore to think big about what we need going forward and she has presented a plan the budget will allow her to implement in the next year.

This is not the budget we expected, but the budget that was handed to us in the wake of an economic shutdown as a result of a global pandemic. I commend Mr. Duhaney's leadership and I thank our city employees who have made sacrifices for all of our benefit during this time.

We present this without layoffs and without cuts to priorities that matter most. Everyone furloughed is brought back as I promised. I don't make commitments lightly and it means the world to me we are bringing all back. Fully staffed, this city will make a world of difference for the quality of life for our city.

This is possible in part due to many years of growth,—our growth strategies have been working—responsible financial stewardship, huge reserves, which has helped to offset a massive deficit, and great credit.

In this budget, our investment in human services continues by shifting the source of funds to community block development dollars. That shift requires a waiver from HUD, which we are actively pursuing.

Budgets are not simply recitations of what we have done, but what we intend to do. This budget reflects my values. I look forward to working together to find common ground and pass a budget that we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Cranley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Cranley" clearly distinguishable.

Mayor John Cranley