

# marcc “...to forgo the luxury of separate ways when a common path can be found...”

## Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati

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Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Association of Unity Churches

Baptist Ministers Conference  
of Greater Cincinnati and Vicinity

Church of the Living God

Cincinnati Conference  
(Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

Cincinnati Islamic Center

Disciples of Christ – SW Ohio

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance  
Of Greater Cincinnati

JCRC of The Jewish Federation

Miami Association (American Baptists)

Ohio River Valley District  
(United Methodist Church)

Presbytery of Cincinnati

Religious Society of Friends

Unitarian Universalist Council  
of Greater Cincinnati

United Church of Christ  
Southwest OH Northern KY Association

Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio

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TO: Councilman Charlie Winburn, Chair, Finance Committee and committee members Vice Mayor David Mann, P.G. Sittenfeld, Y. Simpson, W. Young, C. Smitherman, A. Murray, K. Flynn, and C. Seelbach

CC: Mayor John Cranley, City Manager Scott Stiles

DATE: June 3, 2014

RE: General Fund Budget 2015 and Human Services Funding

MARCC asks all of you to set an outcome for the Human Services Budget guided by the existing review and funding process of the Human Services Advisory Committee. MARCC, an interfaith coalition of 17 denominations works for constructive action in response to social concerns affected by process and policy.

The religious community like local government cares deeply about making sure people who need a helping hand receive it. MARCC has several concerns regarding the current recommendations for the Human Services Budget funded out of the City General Fund.

- We applaud City Council for recommending .76% of the General Fund Budget for Human Services, an increase from last year. Yet we are concerned that all organizations or city council proposals for funding have not received full scrutiny by the Human Services Advisory Committee. This disturbs and limits what needs to be a fair and effective process for a limited amount of dollars and effective delivery of services.

- It is heartening to hear that funding for Human Services will be restored to 1.5%. However, we are concerned that the agreed upon priorities will not be met for emergency services in the Human Services Budget if local organizations and city council members continue to submit proposals that are not Human Service priorities.

- We question the funding of a separate position in the city manager's office to coordinate the process of human services, community development block grant projects and the consolidated plan. The Human Services Advisory Committee is modeled after the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Board mandated by Housing and Urban Development. The staff responsibilities of these two committees need to continue, under Trade and Economic Development, and the Planning Department respectively with reference to the Consolidated Plan. Also, the five year consolidated plan has already been completed, thanks to City Planning Department staff working with representatives from the community, who had in-put to the plan and currently play an advisory role in monitoring the Plan's implementation. To date, this has been a transparent process. A process made accountable to city residents, by planning staff and community working together. Transparency is a plus. Process and accountability may suffer and staff time duplicated, if an ombudsman position is created costing the city an unnecessary spending of public dollars.

Thank you,

Margaret A. Fox  
Executive Director