

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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American Baptist Churches USA
Miami Association

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Baptist Ministers Conference
of Greater Cincinnati and Vicinity

Cincinnati Conference
(Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

Cincinnati Islamic Community Center

Disciples of Christ – SW Ohio

Diocese of Southern Ohio

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
Of Greater Cincinnati

JCRC of The Jewish Federation

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 Charley Winburn, Chair, Budget and 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 Harry Black

Date: June 5, 2017

Re: General Fund Budget 2018 - Human Services and Citizen's Complaint Authority Funding

The religious community, like local government, cares deeply about making sure people who need help receive it. The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, MARCC, is an interfaith coalition of denominations in the metropolitan region, made up of Muslims, Jews, Protestants, Roman Catholics and Unitarian-Universalists. We work for constructive action in response to social concerns affected by process and policy.

MARCC comments tonight in response to two pressing social justice concerns, human services and community-police relations. MARCC recommends the following to reduce the burden of 2018 General Fund budget cuts and to improve the budget in two areas, Human Services and the Citizen's Complaint Authority. Any cuts and lack of some restoration in these line items will harm the poor, economically challenged individuals and families, and erode trust between the community and police.

Human Services – MARCC Recommends

- Restoration of the 1.5% Funding Policy for Human Services in the General Fund Budget by the end of 2018, through unanticipated revenue.
- At minimum, City Council maintain the FY2017 level of funding for Human Services, 0.88%-\$3 Million, in FY2018. Asking the poor and working poor to do their fair share in bearing the burden of a \$26 Million Municipal Deficit is morally indefensible.
- City Council support and follow the recommendations made by the Human Services Advisory Committee. Honor the process and transparency, of their proposal review and funding decisions. This includes following the 50/50 formula for Human Service priorities - the Prevention of Homelessness and Employment Skill Preparation, established by City Council.

Citizens Complaint Authority-MARCC Recommends

- Restoration of funding for the CCA process at the same level prior to the recession.
- Hire two additional case investigators to address the backlog of citizen complaints caused by budget cuts during the recession.
- Give the CCA analytic resources so they can independently review patterns of discourteous behavior and other complaints, to establish a data bank that will play a part in correcting racially bias profiling. This would be one more way to build trust and strengthen community-police relations.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Fox
Executive Director