

VICE MAYOR DAVID MANN

December 2015

Dear Friends:

As another year comes to a close, I write to share an update on our work at City Hall and thank you for your continued support. I am proud of what my staff and I have been able to achieve over the past year, and I look forward to the New Year and the opportunities it presents to continue our hard work.

A major priority for us is to meet the needs of our 52 incredible and varied neighborhoods. I have the pleasure to work with residents, property owners, community councils, businesses, my Council colleagues, the Mayor and the Administration to find solutions to the challenges we face as a community.

Attached is more detail on our successes thus far, and the goals we have set for the coming year. Please contact my office if my staff and I can ever be of assistance. Pete Metz, Elise Daniel, Kathy Doane and our interns are always ready and willing to help.

Thank you for your continued support. As always, I am proud to serve you and our great city.

Betsy and I wish you the happiest of holidays and hope that you have had a fantastic year. I look forward to hearing from and seeing you soon.

All the best,



David

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WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

NEIGHBORHOODS

As Chair of the Neighborhoods Committee, I continue to focus on issues in our 52 diverse neighborhoods. My goal is to visit a different community council each week, and early next year I will have visited every council in the city at least once. At each of these meetings my staff and I spend more time listening than speaking. We learn more that way and often return to City Hall with great ideas and insights.

Our office worked tirelessly this year to help pave and provide streetlights for two streets in Mt. Airy that had been neglected for nearly thirty years. Just this month the city erected twelve new streetlights on Hawaiian Terrace, a street where residents so feared the violence that the darkness was harboring that they often did not leave home at night.

In Over-the-Rhine we worked with residents, 3CDC and one business to alleviate the negative impacts that cooking exhaust had on apartment dwellers behind the restaurant.

We have also worked with the city Department of Public Services to address blight, litter and trash issues in countless other neighborhoods. We initiated a review of all city owned property to ensure that we hold ourselves to the same standards as private property owners in maintaining our land.

This focus on casework is intentional and I appreciate the customer service oriented nature of my team as we serve as a resource for community council leaders and citizens to solve the problems they bring to us.

CITY BUDGET

The City passed our second consecutive structurally balanced budget, maintaining our commitment to fiscal responsibility. Of most significance, I brokered an agreement that allocated \$3 million to the City's Human Services Fund. These funds will be competitively allocated to organizations whose programs increase gainful employment or reduce homelessness. I am also helped organize a violence prevention working group to identify and recommend ways for Council to expand the focus of this fund to include violence prevention.

The budget compromise also contained a significant new investment in our city's basic infrastructure, including roads and the city's fleet, both of which are outdated and inefficient.

This budget also increased funding for the Neighborhood Support Program, giving more money directly to community councils to fund a myriad of community driven efforts in neighborhoods across the city. This fund had been drastically cut during the recession, leaving communities with very little direct financial support from the city. In the coming years I will continue to prioritize increasing these funds to empower communities.

THE WORK AHEAD

Cincinnati remains a "tale of two cities." While it has been exciting this year to host the All Star game, witness the delivery and initial testing of our first streetcar, and watch new restaurants, office buildings, apartments and condos rise from the ground throughout downtown and Over-the-

Rhine, we continue to have an unacceptably high level of childhood poverty, infant mortality, and unemployment in too many parts of our community. Life expectancy can vary by as much as twenty years, depending on the a baby's neighborhood.

I hope to find concrete ways in which the City can help make a difference for the many Cincinnatians who are missing out on the city's renaissance.

PRESCHOOL PROMISE

I have taken a leadership role in the Preschool Promise, an effort to provide quality preschool for every three and four year old in Cincinnati. This is a game-changer for our community—investing a dedicated stream of funds to ensure that our children get a fair chance to succeed and participate in the renaissance Cincinnati is experiencing. You will hear much more from me on this topic as we prepare to take this initiative to voters in 2016.

POVERTY

At the request of Mayor Cranley, I am serving on the Poverty Taskforce that has taken on a goal of lifting 10,000 children out of poverty by 2020. This goal is ambitious, but this taskforce of business and civic leaders is committed to creating a comprehensive strategy to achieve it. Our work is ongoing. We hope to present a plan to the city by this summer.

HOMELESSNESS

I continue to support initiatives that combat homelessness. I helped a coalition of housing providers develop a plan to reduce family homelessness in Cincinnati. I championed an initial investment from the City to help Bethany House consolidate and improve its facilities. There is much still to be done on this front, though, and I will look for new ways to support this effort in the coming year.

FINAL COMMENTS

As I meet with community councils and leaders across the city, many common themes present themselves. The first and most obvious is an optimism and energy in city neighborhoods that is greater than any other time I can remember in my career. From one neighborhood to the next more citizens are showing up, making their voices heard, and investing their scarce resources to improve the neighborhoods they call home.

But there are still so many areas where they need the city's support. I hear concerns about the impact of the heroin crisis on our streets and the violence that has become all too common in many places. In too many neighborhoods, poverty and joblessness persist, and we must find ways to connect people to jobs and opportunities.

My pledge for 2016 is to work on these important issues that will truly narrow the gap between those of us who see opportunity and resurgence in our community and those who see neglect. There is no more important goal than this for the coming year.