

# City of Cincinnati



Interdepartment  
Correspondence Sheet

2009-00754

Date: April 14, 2009

To: Councilmember Y. Laketa Cole  
From: John P. Curp, City Solicitor *JPC/RC*  
Subject: **Ordinance – Representative Community Councils**

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Attached for your submission to Council is an ordinance captioned as follows:

**DIRECTING** the City Manager to maintain a directory of representative community councils, not to exceed one representative community council for each of the fifty-two City of Cincinnati neighborhoods; to ensure that all City departments, agencies, officials and/or authorities recognize and give consideration to views expressed by representative community councils; and to provide a minimum definition of a representative community council as guidance for the City and the City's departments, agencies, officials and/or other authorities; and repealing Ordinance No. 220-1989.

JPC/MFC/(skj)  
Attachment  
(Council) Cole NSP Funding B Version 406.doc

**City of Cincinnati**  
**An Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_**

MFC/B JAC/PAH  
-2009

**DIRECTING** the City Manager to maintain a directory of representative community councils, not to exceed one representative community council for each of the fifty-two City of Cincinnati neighborhoods; to ensure that all City departments, agencies, officials and/or authorities recognize and give consideration to views expressed by representative community councils; and to provide a minimum definition of a representative community council as guidance for the City and the City's departments, agencies, officials and/or other authorities; and repealing Ordinance No. 220-1989.

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 220-1989 directed the City Manager to include as a condition for funding in the Neighborhood Support Program certain requirements including that a neighborhood council or organization extend full membership privileges to all persons eighteen years of age or older who reside within the territorial boundaries of the council or organization; and

WHEREAS, City Council recognizes that its members are elected at large and therefore that the fifty-two representative neighborhood community councils are able to provide vital input to the City's policy and decision making process as it affects the neighborhoods of the City; and

WHEREAS, Council wants to ensure that all City departments, agencies, officials and/or other authorities give consideration to views and perspectives delivered by representative community councils; and

WHEREAS, Council recognizes its responsibility to give guidance to the City Manager on the definition of a representative community council and to ensure that the City Manager facilitates the development of representative community councils by providing Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) funding to representative community councils; and

WHEREAS, Council has therefore determined to amend and clarify Ordinance No. 220-1989; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the City Manager is hereby directed to maintain a directory of Cincinnati's Representative Community Councils. A Representative Community Council is one that has articles of incorporation, bylaws or regulations which:

A. Define its "Neighborhood" as a geographical territory within the City of Cincinnati corporation limits that includes at least the territory defined by the City of Cincinnati to be within that Neighborhood;

B. Define a "Neighborhood Resident" as any person who resides within the Neighborhood;

C. Extend full membership, voting and participation privileges to all Neighborhood Residents eighteen years of age or older and allow residency to be evidenced by a voter registration card, driver's license, lease, housing contract, rent receipt, or tax or utility bill, provided further that each Neighborhood Resident evidencing such proof of residency shall be vested with full voting privileges as to NSP funding allocation, zoning and liquor licensing issues without regard to whether the Neighborhood Resident has paid a membership fee to the Representative Community Council;

D. Do not discriminate in membership and voting policy based on the nature of housing quarters chosen by a person as a place of abode, except that such housing quarters may be required to be located within the Neighborhood;

E. Do not allow any policy, regulation or rule that violates any local, state or federal anti-discrimination law or ordinance;

F. Provide that all its decisions including but not limited to election of officers, committee appointments, all other issues of community interest, NSP funding allocation, and, when time permits, zoning considerations and liquor licensing, are made in open meetings where all Neighborhood Residents have an open vote;

G. Provide that the number of Neighborhood Residents involved in voting on an issue being discussed and the vote count on either side of the issue in question shall be included in communications provided to City departments, agencies and/or other authorities regarding that issue;

H. Affirm that it refrains from participating in or intervening in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office;

I. Provide available evidence to the City Manager, the City Manager's designee and the Neighborhood that it is a Representative Community Council as defined herein.

Section 2. That the City Manager has not more than twelve months subsequent to the effective date of this ordinance to comply with the portions of Section 1 not contained in Ordinance No. 220-1989.

Section 3. That the City Manager is hereby directed to mandate that all City departments, agencies, and/or other authorities give consideration to views expressed by Representative

Community Councils when making political or administrative decisions that affect the citizens of the City.

Section 4. That the City Manager is hereby directed to facilitate neighborhood community council development by offering NSP funding to Representative Community Councils who provide to the City Manager the information described in Section 1.I.

Section 5. That existing Ordinance No. 220-1989 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 6. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2009

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk