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HAMILTON COUNTY – CITY OF CINCINNATI WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE REGION: A MODEL FOR SEWER / WATER UTILITY CAPITAL INVESTMENTS TO BOLSTER THE REGION'S ECONOMY AND WORKFORCE

Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati have the opportunity to institute a workforce development program at the two public, countywide utilities, the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) and Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW). The substantial capital investment in the region's sewer and water infrastructure over the next several years allows for a City-County collaborative initiative that can support local businesses and enable workforce development.

While MSD is governed by state law limiting its procurement and contracting policies, this initiative establishes policy goals similar to those achieved by other large, successful public and private projects in the region including The Banks Project, the Queen City Tower and the Horseshoe Casino. The long-term, multi-billion dollar investment in regional infrastructure at MSD and GCWW can have a lasting impact on local workforce development in a legal and cost-effective manner that benefits the entire community.

Objectives:

Establish aspirational inclusion goals for MSD and GCWW

Similar to inclusion goals for other large construction programs in Cincinnati and Hamilton County:

The Banks: 30% SBE Construction, 15% Commodities and General Services, etc.
Queen City Tower: 25% MBE, 7% WBE, 30% SBE
Horseshoe Casino: 20% MWBE

Contract with the Port Authority and/or inclusion firm to monitor the inclusion goals established for MSD capital projects by conducting outreach programs and tracking, monitoring and preparing participation reports on inclusion goals.

ESTIMATED COST: \$0/minimal to establish aspirational goals; \$150,000-\$300,000 annually for inclusion monitoring

Fund workforce preparation programs to prepare local residents for job training

MSD and GCWW agree upon a funding mechanism to support existing workforce preparation programs including, but not limited to pre-apprenticeship programs, apprenticeship programs, vocational programs, etc.

Work with Workforce Investment Board, other large utilities, contractors, unions and other stakeholders to establish programming to meet the specific needs of MSD and GCWW.

ESTIMATED COST: \$200,000 annually, per utility .

Chris Monzel, President

Greg Hartmann, Vice President

Todd Portune

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS AT THE METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) was created and exists as a County Sewer District under Chapter 6117 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, under an agreement entered into in 1968, the City of Cincinnati serves as the sole agent of the Board of County Commissioners (Board) in operating the sewer district; and

WHEREAS, under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 307.15, the County may enter into agreements with a municipal corporation to perform any function or render any service on behalf of the County that the County may exercise, perform or render; and

WHEREAS, the County's powers are limited to those specifically granted by the ORC; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (Board), by Resolution dated September 16, 2013, prohibited MSD from "procurement of any project using policies or procedures which deviate from the County's authority under the Ohio Revised Code and which is not authorized by the Board of County Commissioners including, but not limited to: (a) those policies designed to provide geographic preference to bidders, including but not limited to those policies set forth in Cincinnati Municipal Code Chapter 321; (b) those policies requiring that bidders utilize a labor pool from a specific or designated geographical region, including but not limited to those policies set forth in Cincinnati Municipal Code Chapter 318; nor (c) any "responsible bidder" (also referred to as "best bidder") policies established by the City of Cincinnati, including but not limited to those policies set forth in the Cincinnati Municipal Code Chapter 320 and Chapter 318, sections 318-1-A1 and 318-5," and

WHEREAS, this Board has established a working group of County representatives, City representatives, local contractors and trade unions to collaborate on a strategy to support workforce development for local residents while keeping ratepayer costs low and abiding by ORC statute – a process that has resulted in productive discussions on achieving these goals; and

WHEREAS, as owners of the sewer district, the County Board of Commissioners desires to encourage and support local businesses and workforce development in Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati through the substantial capital investment in the region's sewer and water infrastructure at MSD in the next several years; and

WHEREAS, this Board supports the implementation of an initiative funded through MSD that does the following:

- Promotes workforce development in legal accordance with ORC statute governing sewer districts,
- Does not financially penalize contractors, limit the contractors that can bid on MSD capital projects or otherwise dictate operations at private businesses, and
- Limits the financial burden on MSD ratepayers while strategically funding established workforce preparation programs; and

WHEREAS, several large construction projects developed in Hamilton County and Cincinnati in recent years provide a successful template for establishing aspirational goals for small/minority/women-owned business inclusion and investing in established workforce preparation programs, such as The Banks Project, the Horseshoe Casino construction project and Queen City Tower construction project (economic inclusion for the Casino and Queen City Tower were both managed by the City-County Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board hereby establishes an initiative to promote workforce development at MSD for its capital investments in the following manner:

- This Board will establish aspirational inclusion goals for capital projects at MSD that will encourage the employment and contracting of a to-be-determined percentage of small businesses, minority-owned businesses and/or women-owned businesses for construction and/or general services.
- This Board will contract with the Port Authority and/or a reputable professional services firm to monitor the aspirational inclusion goals established for MSD capital projects by conducting outreach programs and tracking, monitoring and preparing participation reports on inclusion goals.
- This Board will authorize a funding mechanism at MSD to support existing workforce preparation programs such as pre-apprenticeship or vocational programs at a pre-determined funding level annually to encourage enrollment in these programs as preparation for job training and employment with local businesses and contractors in order to provide a qualified workforce for the \$3 billion capital program at MSD.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board strongly encourages Cincinnati City Council to adopt a similar initiative at Greater Cincinnati Water Works, which is also a countywide utility funded by ratepayer dollars and employing several hundred individuals to complete large-scale capital projects in Cincinnati and Hamilton County, in order to amplify the positive impact of workforce preparation investments for local residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board supports this workforce development initiative as a substitution and alternative to the City of Cincinnati's current ordinances requiring local preferences or responsible bidder policies for MSD projects (Cincinnati Municipal Code Chapters 318, 320 and 321) and reiterates its directive to MSD to continue ceasing implementation of these policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board will continue the suspension of MSD projects bid under the City's Responsible Bidder or Local Preferences policies and strongly encourages Cincinnati City Council to immediately repeal these detrimental procurement policies and to work collaboratively with this Board, local contractors and workforce development experts to establish a new strategy for increasing workforce preparation for individuals in our community.

ADOPTED at a regularly adjourned meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio, this 15th day of January, 2014.

Mr. Hartmann _____ Mr. Monzel _____ Mr. Portune _____

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in session this 15th day of January, 2014.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of the Office of the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio, this 15th day of January, 2014.

Jacqueline Panioto, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Hamilton County, Ohio