

# The Winburn Report

City of Cincinnati—The Office of Councilman Charlie Winburn



*Charlie Winburn and Staff Wish You and Your Family a Happy and Prosperous 2011*

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## Cincinnati City Council bids farewell to Chris Monzel

*Winburn says conservative colleague will be missed*

As 2010 comes to a close at Cincinnati City Hall, City Council bids farewell to our colleague Chris Monzel.

Mr. Monzel has served on this body for the past nine of the last ten years and was recently successful in his run for a seat on the Hamilton County Commissioners.

Charlie Winburn describes Chris as a very close

friend, confidant, and trusted ally on many issues that have come before Council since Winburn's return a year ago.

"He has been a quiet leader and a consistent voice for conservative policies," Winburn said. "We often compared notes and votes on specific issues and I will miss him."

Monzel is scheduled to



take his new office at the beginning of 2011, while a Council replacement will follow immediately. Winburn expects to work just as closely with Monzel's successor.

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## Public safety and security remain high priority

Budget debate over layoffs of police and fire ends with Winburn's deciding vote to save jobs *and* start the new year with discussions on government reforms

This year's budget decisions turned out to be as difficult as any in recent years. A looming \$60 million deficit had to be filled with a combination of fewer expenses, more revenue, or a combination of the two, all the while attempting to keep the citizens' priorities at the forefront.

From the beginning, Winburn's first priority was to maintain the highest levels of safety and security for all citizens. Without public safety and public services, much else Council desired to do would quickly be devalued.

Next, the message to the City Manager was to cut the

city bureaucracy, reform it, and right-size it based on the amount of resources currently available.

The City Manager has stated that we are in a struggle for sustainability. He's right. The reality is we cannot continue down the same path of big government, higher taxes, trash fees, wasteful government spending and no fiscal accountability at City Hall.

Winburn introduced numerous long-term permanent budget reductions—some which were accepted and others not—in light of the following principles, with view toward safeguarding core city services on a permanent basis:

- ▶ We must redesign, reform and right-size our city programs and services through the establishment of a Blue Ribbon Committee which will review our entire government from top to bottom and make recommendations towards efficiency and effectiveness.
- ▶ We must revitalize the Cincinnati economy by making it easier to do business in Cincinnati.
- ▶ We must restore faith in the values and principles of fiscal accountability, responsibility, efficiency and common sense at Cincinnati City Hall.

## Trolley Folly

Streetcar utility estimate already "way off mark"

"Relocating utilities to make way for Cincinnati's proposed streetcar could cost four times as much as the city has budgeted...[T]he city has estimated it will cost \$5 million to move utilities for the project. But new estimates from Duke Energy Corp. show the cost of moving electric and gas lines alone could be more than \$20 million. And that estimate does not include the cost of relocating water, sewer, telephone, cable or fiber optic lines along the path of the streetcar."

BUSINESS COURIER  
NOVEMBER 17, 2010

# City to Offer Second Chance Tax Amnesty Program in 2011

*Incentive for citizens to pay delinquent balances has generated significant funds for other cities across the country*

City Council passed a *Second Chance Tax Amnesty Program* that will provide a WIN-WIN for the city and many of its citizens, particularly during the current economic crisis that has affected government and personal incomes alike. Once the details are in place, the program is expected to significantly enhance the city's revenue stream, even if it collects only a portion of what is owed.

The proposal was offered by Charlie Winburn after reading about successful programs other cities across the country have utilized in recent years. Once the City Manager completes the details on the program, citizens with delinquent balances for earnings and corporate income tax, property tax, code and traffic fines, water and sewer bills, along with a number of other special fees and assessments, will have the opportunity to receive a one-time waiver of some penalties and interest if full payment on balances is made to the city by a specific deadline.

The national financial crisis has obviously been significantly felt in Cincinnati by the drop in revenue collections from all sources. "This is a great opportunity to give citizens a second chance in providing relief for taxpayers amidst our local economic downturn," Winburn said. "I believe that allowing citizens to pay their debts to the city and move on can help encourage small businesses to create jobs; it can sustain home ownership and hopefully prevent more foreclosures; and it may prevent some personal and business bankruptcies."

Winburn cited examples from cities such as Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Newark, NJ, and Birmingham, AL including, (1) In 2004, the City of Fort Lauderdale, FL raised \$1.3 million through their Code Fine Amnesty Program. The monies were used to prevent layoffs of 30 public safety aides in their police department. (2) In 2009, the City of Newark, NJ generated approximately \$4 million, with 70% of the total amount owed to the city being paid by delinquent taxpayers. (3) In the short time since October 1, 2010, the City of Birmingham, AL has recovered approximately \$1 million through their amnesty program. Cincinnati expects to have similar results.

*"I'm Charlie Winburn and I work for you. Please feel free to contact me at my office any-*



*time. It is an honor to be your City Councilman and I look forward to serving you for the next two years."*

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## SBE Construction Training

*ACI Program Builds Capacity of Small Companies;*

*Next FREE Class Begins*

*January 2011*

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## Job Creation Committee Hosts *HUGE* Briefing

Over 500 Learn About Upcoming Opportunities in Cincinnati  
MSD Takes *Briefing* to Next Level for 300 at Follow Up Seminar

A record crowd of over 500 recently packed City Hall seeking to learn how to create jobs and grow their businesses through city resources and contracting opportunities.

Chaired by Charlie Winburn, the Job Creation Committee sponsored the *Briefing* as a first step in providing an overview of the major opportunities that are available through and in Cincinnati to expand their businesses.

Presenters and topics covered at the *Briefing* included:

- Community Development Department
- Economic Development Department
- Cincinnati Parks
- Metropolitan Sewer District
- Cincinnati Streetcar
- Cincinnati Casino
- Major development projects by 3CDC
- Cooney Faulkner & Stevens CPAs re: Small Business Jobs Act of 2010
- UC's Entrepreneurship & Community Development Clinic

"I was very, very pleased with both events, particularly the help from our great volunteers and our excellent presenters," Winburn said. "We did this for the people of Cincinnati and hope that it was helpful."

As promised, Winburn followed through with plans to take the *Briefing* to the next level with in-depth seminars by city departments and special projects underway in Cincinnati.

Metropolitan Sewer District co-sponsored the next and first of five semi-

nars on December 14 to take attendees deeper into the contracting opportunities available with, through and in the City of Cincinnati specifically with MSD.

MSD Director Tony Parrot explained how he is planning to spend nearly \$450 million over the next year and \$3.2 billion over the next 15-20 years on various infrastructure projects related to water and sewer.

Winburn's will lead efforts in 2011 to schedule four similar seminars with other city departments.