

# The Winburn Report

City of Cincinnati—The Office of Councilman Charlie Winburn

## Winburn Fighting to Put Cincinnati Back to Work Job Creation Committee Roundtables Meeting During Summer Recess

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Although Cincinnati City Council recessed for summer break on June 30, the Winburn council office isn't skipping a beat. "There's simply too much work that I want to get done for me to take a break," Councilman Charlie Winburn said.

When the Job Creation Committee was created, numerous jurisdictions and issues were placed under its scope of work. As Chairman, Charlie knew he needed to tap the wealth of expertise and knowledge that exists all across the city on these issues if Cincinnati had a chance at turning around its economic health and vitality.

Winburn created five economic roundtables to address the scope of the

Committee: (1) Business Retention & Recruitment; (2) Small Business Development; (3) Workforce Development & Job Training; (4) Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Compliance; and (5) Cincinnati Dream Neighborhoods.

Since the beginning of the year, nearly 150 individuals have been asked to serve in one capacity or another with these roundtables. Now with council on recess, the grassroots work has begun. Winburn's goal is to come up with specific tasks that each roundtable can tackle and complete before the end of the year with a view to effectively changing the economic conditions that exist in Cincinnati.

Councilman Winburn held his first roundtable meeting

on July 1 around the issue of Workforce Development & Training. "I don't think we could have a better team that has stepped up to lead on this issue," Winburn said. "Our Co-Chairs Gwen Robinson and Kathy Merchant laid out an agenda that I believe will truly impact the lives of our citizens."

The other 20 in attendance also volunteered their time on one or more of the agenda items. Stay tuned for a progress report as work is accomplished by each of our roundtables. "I can assure you that when council reconvenes after the summer recess, they will know that the Job Creation Committee has been working," Winburn said.

## Jordan Crossing Technical Campus on the Drawing Board to Create 700 Jobs, Re-Development Project Offers Great Hope

Developers have identified specific areas of Cincinnati for specialized projects and economic revitalization because of unique opportunities that exist. Jordan Crossing in the Bond Hill/Roselawn community is currently being targeted by the city's Community Development Department.

To assist in that effort,

Councilman Winburn is leading an effort on city council to establish a blue ribbon, Mayoral-appointed roundtable that will assist and advise on issues related to how the development project can best integrate with the surrounding neighborhoods.

"We have a treasure of professionals who are ready

to offer their time, at no cost to the city, to take on a project of this size and make it successful," Winburn said. "I am confident that once the funding comes through for this project and the roundtable gets started, we can create the projected 700 jobs in an area that has such great potential."

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### Trolley Folly

The University of Cincinnati Economics Center for Education and Research Assessment of the Cincinnati Streetcar Study says:

*"Other communities across the country offer a considerable amount of anecdotal evidence, but little systematic research has been done."*



## Enquirer: *Winburn calls it a chance for the city to lead* Fair Hiring Motion Moving Forward

We all make mistakes in life. Some are just more costly than others. But when we begin putting our lives back on track, and start making good decisions, sometimes a little help is needed. In a former felon's life, that little bit can go a very long way.

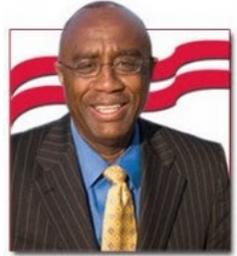
A recent Enquirer article headlined one of the biggest helps: "The best route out of prison is employment." The article goes on to say, "Having no hope, no legitimate way to make a living, nowhere to go and nothing productive to do is a sure path back to trouble...Creating paths to employment for former offenders – in public and private venues – is some of the smartest crime prevention we can do."

Council offices of Winburn and Qualls have been working with local non-profit groups and the city's Human Resources Department to make a few common sense reforms to Cincinnati's hiring policies and procedures. The changes recommended by the City Manager and to be considered by the **Job Creation Committee on Monday, August 2** will "clearly articulate a reasoned approach to hiring ex-offenders." Anyone interested in attending and/or speaking before Committee is invited to attend the meeting to be held at **Duke Energy Convention Center at 1:00pm.**

*"I'm Charlie Winburn and I work for you.*

*Please feel free to contact me at my office any-*

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



### **Council Office Contact Info**

Cincinnati City Hall

801 Plum Street, Suite 346A

Cincinnati, OH 45202

Phone: 513-352-5354

Fax: 513-352-5367

Charlie.Winburn@cincinnati-oh.gov

## It's Time to Crack Down on Irresponsible Bar Owners

Guest Column by Charlie Winburn · Cincinnati Enquirer · June 29, 2010

It's time to get tough on irresponsible Cincinnati bar owners. City Council currently has a responsibility to review all liquor license renewals that are before the Ohio Liquor Commission. Although we do not have the final authority to approve a license, Council makes non-binding recommendations on each renewal to the Commission.

Each year, we depend heavily on our police to research each permit holder, compile pertinent crime statistics, and get input from the communities. They are the front line in this process and are to be commended for all the work they do in overseeing the renewal of liquor permits.

The majority of bar owners who have liquor licenses issued by the State of Ohio are doing a good job of providing adequate security and safety measures for their patrons. On the other hand, there are some bar owners who just don't operate that way.

A responsible bar owner should have a written code of conduct, combined with a comprehensive safety plan, that patrons must adhere to if they want to remain on the premises. If a bar owner does not have a plan, it is most likely a sign that he is

not prepared to handle or prevent crimes of violence on their premises. City Council **must** correct this.

Enhancement of the permit review process would make bar owners more accountable for making their establishments safer by adhering to the following stronger security policies that need to be supported by City Council in cracking down on the irresponsible ones:

1. Annually require all bar owners to submit a written comprehensive safety and security plan that includes (1) training of employees, (2) electronic security systems, (3) on-site security, parking lot safety plans, and community councils' involvement and support.

2. Update the ***Standardized Liquor License Objection Assessment Matrix*** that our police use in the renewal process. Police currently track and assess points for ***Violent Crimes, Drugs, Liquor Violations, and Calls for Service***. This list should have two new categories for ***Homicides*** and ***Shots Fired***. A bar that accumulates 100 points for any combination of these issues should receive an automatic recommended objection to the license renewal.

Of course, there would have to be exemptions for extenuating cir-

cumstances but those would be reviewed by the police on a case-by-case basis. This new assessment ***Matrix*** will be uniform, fair and objective for all permit holders.

Under my proposed changes, Cincinnati possibly could have seen a reduction in at least 17 problem bars over the last 10 years where there were 25 homicides. These irresponsible bar owners would have received an automatic objection to the renewal of their liquor license due to one or more homicides on their premises over the last 10 years.

Who knows how many more could have been closed for gun shots, other violent crimes, drugs, and liquor violations? Just in the last five years, we've seen 158 felonious assaults in 55 bars in our city. Over the years, a chorus of elected officials and citizens has cried out for the closure of many of these problem bars. Unfortunately, we cannot simply close them down without due process that uses clear guidelines for bar owners to follow so that we can hold them accountable.

Implementing my proposals will pave the way for getting rid of irresponsible bar owners once and for all who put profit above the safety of their patrons.