



THE HEART OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz
Members of Council

From: Finance Director Vernon Blaze

Date: Friday, September 23, 2022

Re: Finance Office and Related Topic Updates

Upcoming 2023 Budget Process

Based on financial data provided by the Finance Office, Department Directors have been meeting with Mayor Kurtz this month to formulate preliminary 2023 operating budgets for each department. This is a good, early start to the 2023 budget process.

When those meetings are complete, Mayor Kurtz will present initial budgetary requests for each department to the Finance Office. The Finance Office will compile all that data and synthesize it into a preliminary budget document for Council to commence its review and approval process.

Budget meetings can be scheduled when those preliminary budget documents are complete. Department Directors can be made available to present brief overviews of:

- Where their departments have been
- Where their departments are now
- Where their departments want and need to be going forward
- Plans to get the departments to where they want and need to be
 - And for the purpose of these budgetary meetings, the financial resources needed/requested to get them there

Upcoming 2023 Budget Process – Continued

While those meetings are taking place, as odd as it sounds given how much time was spent crafting, drafting, debating, amending and finally adopting the 2022 – 2026 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), at least some time will also need to be given to capital and infrastructure issues too.

First, the CIP needs to be moved forward one year to become the 2023 – 2027 CIP. Second, a number of departments are already looking at amending their upcoming capital requests based on updates to the statements made on the previous page regarding where each department currently is, where each needs and wants to be, and how each department is going to get there.

2021 Audit

After 8 ½ months, the audit team from the Auditor of State's office (AOS) finally completed the 2021 audit earlier this week.

Mayor Kurtz, Vice-Mayor Grendel and Finance Director Blaze signed some documents yesterday, the AOS's office has compiled everything and will release some preliminary draft documents to Council today already.

That communication from the AOS's office notes the confidential nature of these documents until the 2021 audit is certified and released – likely within a few weeks.