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David S. Mann
Vice Mayor/Councilmember

Cincinnati City Council Motion Requiring SORTA to Operate and Maintain the Streetcar

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati has begun construction of a \$133 million, 3.6-mile streetcar route through parts of Downtown and Over-the-Rhine, which is scheduled to begin revenue service in September 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) will operate the Cincinnati Streetcar pursuant to terms and conditions of an intergovernmental agreement currently in negotiations; and

WHEREAS, SORTA Metro Bus is operated and maintained by SORTA employees that have a track record of providing efficient and cost-effective transit services; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires that the local Cincinnati labor be utilized to operate the Cincinnati Streetcar in order to retain and grow the City's skilled transit workforce;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that City Council directs the administration to require through its operations and maintenance agreement with SORTA, and as a condition of future City funding, that SORTA operate and maintain the Cincinnati Streetcar using its own employees rather than a third-party contractor; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that for represented SORTA employees working on the streetcar system, SORTA shall in good faith negotiate a collective bargaining agreement for the streetcar system that takes into account all labor recognized by SORTA as part of its current fixed route service while accounting for the operating and maintenance differences between Metro Bus service and the streetcar system; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Motion shall not restrict SORTA's ability to utilize third-party contractors to fill specialized management roles or to contract on an as-needed basis for highly specialized streetcar-support services.

City of Cincinnati



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