

## **CITY OF OBERLIN, OHIO**

### **ORDINANCE No. 24-76 AC CMS**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE OBERLIN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SOCIETY TO GO INTO IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

WHEREAS, The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) presumes that populations with low to moderate income have been negatively impacted or disproportionately impacted by the negative health, safety, and economic effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds that as the economy recovers, the negative health and economic effects of the pandemic may continue to impact households in the form of a continued risk of long-term effects on the health, safety, earnings, and economic potential of members of the Oberlin and Lorain County communities that have been impacted or disproportionately impacted by the negative economic consequences of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, ARPA funding is intended to help communities rebuild in ways that secure economic stability and mobility for those most impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oberlin is in receipt of funds granted under the ARPA, which may be used to mitigate the negative health, safety, and economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

WHEREAS, the Oberlin Underground Railroad Society (“OURS”) is an Oberlin-based, not-for-profit corporation duly formed under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that provides essential services to low to moderate-income populations in Oberlin and Lorain County and;

WHEREAS, O.U.R.S. facilitates programs and opportunities to bring economic vitality to a segment of the Oberlin population that has been disproportionately impacted by the negative economic effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples include hosting meetings, presentations, educational opportunities, and other support that will encourage the formation of small businesses for members of the Oberlin community, often without charge. O.U.R.S. also makes its facility available to organizations and individuals to incubate revenue-generating startups within the City of Oberlin.

WHEREAS, this Council finds that the provision of financial assistance to OURS will facilitate the mitigation of the negative economic impact upon members of the Oberlin community who have been impacted or disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency consistent with the purposes for which ARPA funds have been appropriated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Oberlin, County of Lorain, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That the foregoing Findings of the Oberlin City Council are hereby affirmed and adopted as part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 2: That this Council does hereby authorize the expenditure of ARPA funds in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to OURS to support operational costs to enable it to accommodate the needs of persons impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.


SECTION 3: That the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to take all such administrative action as may be necessary or convenient for the provision of ARPA funding to OSC as authorized by this ordinance.

SECTION 4. That it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning or relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 5. To encumber ARPA funds within the term period required to by law and provided that at least five (5) members of Council determine by motion that this Ordinance shall go into full force and effect immediately after its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect on the earliest date allowed by law.

PASSED: 1st Reading: December 16, 2024  
2nd Reading: \_\_\_\_\_  
3rd Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

  
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BELINDA B. ANDERSON, MMC  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

  
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EBONI A. JOHNSON  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

POSTED: 12/17/2024

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/16/2024