

City of Cincinnati



Chris Monzel

Member of Cincinnati City Council

MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Brad Beckett
513-352-3640

Councilman Says Streetcar Proposal Should be Put to a Vote by the People

(Cincinnati, Ohio) City Councilman Chris Monzel today called on city leaders to place a \$100,000,000 proposal to build a new downtown streetcar on the November ballot. Monzel believes that the majority of Cincinnati citizens are not being heard by a city council who is rushing to pass new spending of such a large magnitude. Monzel made his announcement at a meeting of Council's Finance Committee where the streetcar proposal was being hotly debated.

Commenting about his referendum idea, Councilman Monzel said "this project is of such an enormous scale and magnitude that I think it would be reckless and irresponsible for Council to rush this through and start writing checks for its construction. There are a lot of other worthy projects that are either in the pipeline or under consideration that will surely get postponed or cancelled if this project goes forward today. We owe it to the taxpayers to step back and take a good look at the best way we should be spending precious city resources. There are 50 other neighborhoods which all deserve economic development considerations."

Monzel further stated, "let's be frank here, the city was still paying off bonds issued to pay for the city's 1920 failed subway system well into the 1960's and we still have a cavernous \$20+ million transit center sitting dormant down under 2nd Street. Why are we in such a rush to commit ourselves to this \$100 million proposal? On this issue, Council needs to be listening to all Cincinnati citizens and not a just a few."