



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

July 30, 2024

The Honorable Shannon G. Hardin
President, Columbus City Council
90 West Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Megan Kilgore
City Auditor
90 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Subject: Mayor's Emergency Letter – Cybersecurity Incident Occurrence July 18, 2024

Dear Council President Hardin and Auditor Kilgore:

On July 18, 2024, the city's Department of Technology discovered evidence of an abnormality in its system, one that was unrelated to a co-occurring global IT outage. The city took swift action to significantly limit potential exposure, including severing internet connectivity, to reduce the threat to the city's systems. The Department of Technology worked diligently and continues to remediate this cybersecurity incident (the "Incident") and restore the city's electronic security and safety.

Under the authority provided in Section 329.15 of the Columbus City Codes, I therefore declared, on July 18, 2024, the Incident to present a clear and present danger to public health, safety, welfare or property and, as a result, I have authorized and do direct the Director of the Department of Technology, working through the City Attorney, to immediately enter into a legal services contract with Dinsmore & Shohl LLC and their named cybersecurity subcontractors for an amount up to \$4,000,000.00. The department chose Dinsmore & Shohl LLC, due to its being a law firm with a national reputation for data breach response excellence that also has a strong presence in Ohio. Dinsmore's Data Breach Team consists of attorneys with decades of combined experience who are dedicated solely to critical, cybersecurity incident response.

The department of Technology will provide the funding for this project from the Income Tax Set Aside Fund and the Technology Bond Fund. To effectuate entry into this contract(s) as required by City Charter Sec. 159, this letter hereby authorizes, pursuant to City Charter Sec. 62 and CCC Section 329.15, the following: Appropriation: Income Tax Set Aside Subfund 47-4702-03-63050-1000-100099-CW001---- \$3,000,000 and Expenditure: Income Tax Set Aside Subfund 47-4702-03-63050-1000-100099-CW001---- \$3,000,000 Expenditure: Technology GO Bond Fund 47-4702-06-66530-5105-000000-CW001---- P470047.100000-99 \$1,000,000.

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elon Simms".

Elon Simms
Acting Mayor

CC:

Nicholas J. Bankston, Finance Committee Chair, Columbus City Council