



Legislation Text

File #: 1935-2019, **Version:** 1

BACKGROUND: This legislation authorizes an appropriation to the Department of Recreation and Parks to provide menstrual products in its restrooms at all 29 recreation centers. A national study commissioned by Free the Tampons, a Columbus based nonprofit that aims to end restroom inequality, found that 86 percent of women have started their periods while out in public without the supplies they need. Seventy nine percent end up creating a makeshift (and poor) substitute out of toilet paper. The total amount is \$14,000.00.

Emergency action is necessary to avoid causing interruptions in the delivery of program services.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for this expenditure is allocated from the Neighborhood Initiatives subfund (\$14,000.00).

To authorize an appropriation in the Neighborhood Initiatives Fund to the Department of Recreation and Parks to provide funding to make menstrual products free and accessible in restrooms of recreation centers; and to declare an emergency. (\$14,000.00)

WHEREAS, the Department of Recreation and Parks desires to make menstrual products free and accessible to all menstruators who utilize the city's recreation centers; and

WHEREAS, toilet paper and other sanitary products are universally expected, while tampons and pads are rarely, if ever, provided; and

WHEREAS, a national study commissioned by Free the Tampons, a Columbus-based nonprofit that aims to end restroom inequality, found that 86 percent of menstruators have started their periods while out in public without the supplies they need; and

WHEREAS, 79 percent of those menstruators end up creating makeshift and poor substitutes out of toilet paper when menstrual products are unavailable; and

WHEREAS, access to menstrual products prevents infection caused by inadequate access to or overuse of singular menstrual products; and

WHEREAS, access to menstrual products has been shown to improve the lives of young menstruators by increasing school attendance, reducing stigma, and increasing their confidence; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Department of Recreation and Parks in that it is immediately necessary to appropriate funds to avoid causing interruptions in the delivery of vital program services, all for the preservation of the public health, peace, property, safety, and welfare; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That the City Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to appropriate \$14,000.00 in the Neighborhood Initiatives subfund, fund 1000, subfund 100018, to the Department of Recreation and Parks per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 2. That the City Auditor is authorized to make any accounting changes to revise the funding source for all contracts or contract modifications associated with this legislation.

SECTION 3. That for the reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.