File #: 0890-2021, **Version:** 1

This ordinance authorizes the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks to enter into a grant agreement with MY Project USA in support of a youth soccer program in the Wedgewood neighborhood.

MY Project USA aims to protect and empower Columbus youth by providing access to educational, healthy, and fun programs that help to keep them safe and connect them with positive influences. The Wedgewood Village Apartment community is home to approximately 2,000 children who need increased access to programs, protection, and the tools that lead to empowerment.

Families in the Wedgewood community have a great appreciation for and desire to play soccer. MY Project USA started a soccer team in Wedgewood in 2017, and due to the positive response, the organization developed a year-round program that engages hundreds of children on a weekly basis. With support from Columbus City Council, more youth will have access to the program, which, in addition to enriching their lives, has led to increased morale and safety in the neighborhood.

Last year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, MY Project USA was able to engage 250 youths in the Greater Hilltop and the surrounding area and hope to engage 350-500 youths in 2021.

Fiscal Impact: Funding is available within the Reimagine Safety subfund.

Emergency action is requested in order to avoid any delay in supporting and expanding the MY Project USA Wedgewood soccer program to provide more opportunities for youth engagement.

To authorize the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks to enter into a grant agreement with MY Project USA in support of the Wedgewood youth soccer program; to authorize an appropriation within the Reimagine Safety fund; to authorize a transfer between funds, to authorize an appropriation and expenditure within the Recreation and Parks Operation and Extension fund; and to declare an emergency. ($75,000.00)

WHEREAS, MY Project USA aims to protect and empower Columbus youth by providing access to educational, healthy, and fun programs that help to keep them safe and connect them with positive influences; and

WHEREAS, the Wedgewood neighborhood is home to approximately 2,000 children who need continued and increased access to programs, protection, and the tools that lead to empowerment; and

WHEREAS, MY Project USA started a soccer team in Wedgewood in 2017, and due to the positive response, the organization developed a year-round program that engages hundreds of children on a weekly basis; and

WHEREAS, with support from the Columbus City Council, more children will have access to a program that protects and empowers them; and

WHEREAS, the presence of a Wedgewood soccer team and increased programming for residents has led to a reduction in violent crime and increased morale in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Department of Recreation and Parks in that it is

immediately necessary to authorize the Director to enter into a grant agreement with MY Project USA to provide more opportunities for youth engagement; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

SECTION 1. That the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks is hereby authorized and directed to enter into a grant agreement with MY Project USA in support of the organization's Wedgewood youth soccer program.

SECTION 2. That the Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to appropriate $75,000.00 to the Department of Finance and Management within the Reimagine Safety fund in object class 10-Transfers, per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 3. That the Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to transfer $75,000.00 from the Reimagine Safety subfund, fund 1000, subfund 100019, to the Recreation and Parks Operation and Extension fund, fund 2285, per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 4. That the Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to appropriate $75,000.00 to Recreation and Parks in the Recreation and Parks Operation and Extension fund, fund 2285, in 03-Services per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 5. That per the action authorized in SECTION 1 of this ordinance, the expenditure of $75,000.00 within the Recreation and Parks Operation and Extension fund, fund 2285, is hereby authorized.

SECTION 6. That for reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is hereby declared an emergency measure and shall take effect and be enforced from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.

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