



Hamilton County

Board of County Commissioners

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www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov

June 9, 2021

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Relocation of the Cincinnati Police Department's Gun Range

Dear Senator Brown:

The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners hereby expresses its full support for the relocation of the Cincinnati Police Department's firing range from its current location on Spartan Drive in Evendale, Ohio.

As you may be aware, the current firing range was located in Evendale in 1947. The current surrounding environment includes the densely populated communities of Lincoln Heights, Woodlawn and Evendale. The current location is no longer suitable for an outdoor firing range from which sounds of gunfire regularly impact the surrounding population – most notably the youth of the community. Noise from the firing range reaches homes, churches, childcare facilities and schools in a community already plagued with poverty and rates of violent crime far exceeding national averages.

Hamilton County, the City of Cincinnati, Lincoln Heights, Woodlawn, Evendale, and a host of community partners have been working on a strategy to relocate this firing range to a rural area of the County in coordination with the Hamilton County Sheriff. Making this move would not only solve a pervasive issue of environmental and social justice, but would forge a new cooperative relationship between the Sheriff and the Cincinnati Police Department while clearing the way for a multi-agency shared service opportunity in a modern training facility.

The cost for construction of the facility is anticipated to be \$18 million. Hamilton County has tentatively committed \$5 million of its federal ARPA funds toward this project as well, leaving the community's request for additional funding at \$13 million. Your assistance in this matter is most gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely,


Stephanie Summerow Dumas
President


Alicia Reece
Vice President


Denise Driehaus
Commissioner

City of Cincinnati



Mayor John Cranley

Office of Mayor John Cranley

June 8, 2021

801 Plum Street, Suite 150
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Phone (513) 352-3250
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Email: John.Cranley@cincinnati-oh.gov

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Appropriations Requests
200 North High Street
Room 614
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Brown:

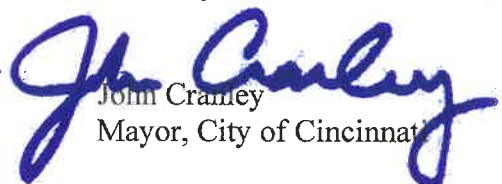
Please accept this letter in support of the appropriations request put forward by Hamilton County, Ohio, to relocate the Cincinnati Police Department gun firing range and training facility.

Since 1947, the Cincinnati Police Department has operated a firing range and training facility at 10139 Spartan Drive, which sits between the municipalities of Evendale, Lincoln Heights, and Woodlawn. For more than 70 years, the Cincinnati Police Department has utilized the gun range in this location. Upon its installation, the adjacent land was predominantly underdeveloped, with no housing surrounding the area. Today, this area is populated by predominantly African American residents who live within the fire range's sounding echoes.

Relocating the Cincinnati Police Department's gun range is a regional effort, supported by the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, Lincoln Heights, Ohio, Woodlawn, Ohio, and Evendale, Ohio. The proposed relocation of the firing range will be to an identified rural area in Hamilton County, with no surrounding homes or schools. The relocation to a new facility will strengthen the partnership between the Cincinnati Police Department and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, with each agreeing to share the proposed space and save resources by eliminating duplicative training grounds, such as sniper training and K-9 training amenities. Federal agencies will also utilize the facility, including the FBI and ATF. This partnership, along with a relocated facility, will benefit all involved.

The cost for relocating the firing range is approximately \$18 million. Federal funds would allow our communities to work expeditiously. We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


John Cranley
Mayor, City of Cincinnati



VILLAGE OF EVENDALE

10500 Reading Road • Evendale, Ohio 45241-2574 • Phone 513-563-2244

Richard H. Finan
Mayor

June 8, 2021

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senator
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

I am writing to express my support for a federal allocation of funds to relocate the Cincinnati Police Firing Range from its current home in the Village of Evendale, to a site tentatively identified in Colerain Township, just west of Cincinnati. Relocation of the firing range is a community priority for several reasons:

Quality of Life: While the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) firing range is located in a commercial area of Evendale, it immediately abuts residential properties in the Villages of Lincoln Heights and Woodlawn. The CPD trains officers at the range five days a week in outdoor, live-fire situations. The sound of gunfire is regular between 9:00am and 3:00pm. Not only does the volume of high-powered weaponry disturb thousands of surrounding residents, it is also distracting for children at a nearby school. Relocating the firing range will, without doubt, improve the quality of life for all within its vicinity, especially for residents, schools and businesses in Lincoln Heights and Woodlawn.

Economic Development: The Village of Evendale is redeveloping land adjacent to the firing range into the AeroHub industrial park for advanced manufacturing and workforce development; leveraging the presence of GE Aviation in Evendale to attract suppliers, contractors, and affiliated aerospace companies to locate near this global aerospace leader. Relocation of the firing range will open more land for redevelopment converting this underutilized acreage into productive land resulting in good paying jobs and a stronger tax base for all Hamilton County and the State of Ohio.

Shared Services – Multijurisdictional Training Facility: The new facility would jointly serve both the Cincinnati Police Department and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, an exemplified model for shared services and multijurisdictional cooperation. Additionally, the Colerain site would be developed to also allow for other law enforcement agencies to train – including, but not limited to, the local offices of the FBI, US Department of Treasury, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and others.

Improved Training Facility and Security: The new facility will also provide an improved training environment with more advanced facilities. Both the CPD and Hamilton County Sheriff's Office currently have older facilities with minimal updates to infrastructure or accommodations for improved technologies. A new location will also be a more secure location for both the training and management of the respective armories.

I respectfully ask that you please include Hamilton County's funding request among your priorities for federal funding this year. The County is committed to participating in the financing structure for the project and federal partnership will be very helpful in making this community and safety-minded project a reality.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to call or email me should you wish to discuss our endorsement further.

Sincerely,



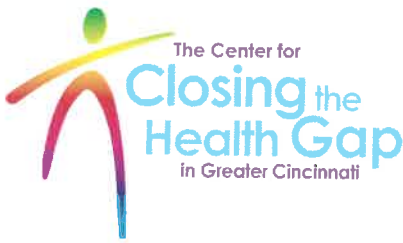
Richard H. Finan

Mayor

Cc: Chris Dobrozi, Executive Vice-President, Neyer Properties

Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County Commissioner

Jan-Michele Kearney, Cincinnati Council Member



The Honorable Sherrod Brown
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

June 9, 2021

Senator Sherrod Brown,

I am writing on behalf of the Center for Closing the Health Gap to urge you to address the public health crisis in a historically black community that has left many families feeling unsafe, stressed, and traumatized. I am pleading for your assistance in relocating the Cincinnati Police Department gun range currently located at 10139 Spartan Drive, between the jurisdictions of Evendale, Lincoln Heights, and Woodlawn.

The Mayors of all three jurisdictions listed above are united in our efforts to move the gun range from its current location and away from Lincoln Heights families. Constant gunfire can be heard from miles around - scaring children, disrupting livelihoods, and further traumatizing veterans in our community.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the need to relocate this outdoor gun range. Working and learning from home was constantly interrupted by the sounds of gunfire.

As President and CEO of the Health Gap, I am in full support of moving the gun range and strongly urge you to assist in its relocation financially.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request.

Sincerely,

Renee Mahaffey Harris
President & CEO
The Center for Closing the Health Gap in Greater Cincinnati

Your Health, Your Future.

closingthehealthgap.org • 513.585.9872 • 3120 Burnet Avenue, Suite 201 • Cincinnati, Ohio 45229



VILLAGE OF LINCOLN HEIGHTS

1201 Steffen Avenue
Lincoln Heights, Ohio 45215
513.733.5900
Fax: 513.733.4190
Website: vlho.org

June 9, 2021

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senator
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

I am writing to express my support for a federal allocation of funds to support the relocation of the Cincinnati Police Firing Range to another location, tentatively identified in Colerain Township, just west of Cincinnati. Relocation of the firing range is a community priority for several reasons.

Quality of Life. The Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) firing range is currently located in the Village of Evendale and adjacent to the neighborhood of Lincoln Heights. Over the years, Lincoln Heights has become more populated, and the presence of more children has necessitated the location of a school in relatively close proximity to the firing range. The CPD trains officers at the range five days a week in live-fire situations. The sound of gunfire is regular between 9:00 and 3:00. The sound is not only a distraction, but also disturbing to the neighbors. Residents of Lincoln Heights and the other nearby communities have long complained about the noise and other harmful effects: (a) psychological trauma; (b) behavioral and learning challenges; (c) hearing and health concerns; (d) environmental concerns; and (e) difficulty in attracting new residents and businesses. Relocating the firing range will, without doubt, improve the quality of life for residents in Lincoln Heights.

Economic Development. The Village of Evendale is redeveloping land adjacent to the firing range into the AeroHub industrial park; leveraging the presence of GE Aviation in Evendale to attract suppliers, contractors, and affiliated aerospace companies to locate near this global aerospace leader. Relocation of the firing range will open more land for redevelopment converting this underutilized land (from a jobs and tax perspective) into productive land for the Village of Evendale, Hamilton County and the State of Ohio.

Shared Services – Multijurisdictional Training Facility. The new, shared facility being contemplated for location in Colerain Township would serve as a model for shared services and multijurisdictional cooperation. The facility would jointly serve both the Cincinnati Police Department and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. Beyond those two agencies, the site is being developed to also allow for other

law enforcement agencies to train – including, but not limited to the local offices of the FBI, US Department of Treasury, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and others.

Improved Training Facility and Security. The new facility will also provide an improved training environment, more advanced training facilities and a more secure facility. Both the CPD and Hamilton County Sheriff's Office currently have older facilities with minimal updates to infrastructure or accommodations for improved technologies. A new location will also be a more secure location for both the training and management of the respective armories that are sited as a part of the training facility.

I respectfully ask that you please include Hamilton County's funding request among your priorities for federal funding this year. The County is committed to participating in the financing structure for the project and federal partnership will be very helpful in successfully transitioning into reality.

Thank you for your consideration.



Mayor Ruby Kinsey-Mumphrey
Village of Lincoln Heights, Ohio

cc: Vice-Mayor Jeannie Stinson
Councilmember Phyllis Baber
Councilmember Linda Childs-Jeter
Councilmember Daronce Daniels
Councilmember Tonya Key
Councilmember LaVerne Mitchell
Village Manager Joyce Powdrill



The Village of Woodlawn

10141 Woodlawn Boulevard
Woodlawn, Ohio 45215
Phone: 513-771-6130
Fax: 513-771-0171
www.beautifulwoodlawn.us

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

June 8, 2021

Dear Senator Brown,

I am writing on behalf of the Village of Woodlawn to urge you to address the public health crisis that has left many families feeling unsafe, stressed, and traumatized. I am pleading for your assistance in relocating the Cincinnati Police Department gun range currently located at 10139 Spartan Drive, between the jurisdictions of Evendale, Lincoln Heights and Woodlawn.

The Mayors of all three of these jurisdictions are united in our efforts to move the gun range from its current location and away from so many Lincoln Heights and Woodlawn families. Constant gun fire can be heard from miles around - scaring children, disrupting livelihoods and further traumatizing veterans in our community.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the need to relocate this outdoor gun range. Working and learning from home was constantly interrupted by the sounds of gun fire.

As the Village Manager of the Village of Woodlawn, I am in full support of moving the gun range and strongly urge you to financially assist its relocation.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request.

Sincerely,

Jerry Thamann
Village Manager

cc: Mayor Brian Poole