

Department of Economic Development Terri Hamilton Brown, Interim Director 601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 210 Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1070 (216) 664-2406

July 7, 2023

The Honorable Blaine A. Griffin President – Cleveland City Council 601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 216 Cleveland, OH 44114

RE: Legislation For Passage – July 12, 2023

Dear Council President Griffin:

I am writing to request your support for introduction and passage under suspension of legislation described below at the <u>City Council Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2023.</u> The legislation is as follows:

UDAG Grant to the Urban League of Greater Cleveland not to exceed \$218,663.20:Authorizing the Director of Economic Development to enter into a grant agreement with the Urban League of Cleveland, or its designee, in the amount of up to \$218,663.20 to assist with general operating expenses related to the Entrepreneurship Center and the UBIZ micro-loan program.

This legislation will authorize the Director to assist the Urban League of Greater Cleveland with financing general operating expenses for 2023 associated with business outreach, assistance and administration of the UBIZ loan fund to originate, underwrite, service and portfolio manage small business lending of their \$2 million loan pool.

The previous contract to the Urban League expired as of March 31, 2023. In order to provide continued support to pay staff and support small businesses with financing and technical support in the City of Cleveland, the Urban League requests that this funding not be held up until August and seeks approval for the funding in July.

I appreciate your support and understanding of our interest in moving this project forward. If you have any questions, please contact me at (216) 664-2204.

Sincerely,

Terri Hamilton Brown, Interim Director Department of Economic Development

cc: All Members of Council

Patricia J. Britt, City Clerk, Clerk of Council Ryan M. Puente, Chief of Government Affairs