

EESW

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2024

RECOGNIZING Dr. L. Venchael Booth, Sr. as a 2024 City of Cincinnati Black History Month honoree and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for his faithful service and innumerable contributions to civil rights in Cincinnati and throughout the United States.

WHEREAS, Dr. L. Venchael Booth, Sr. arrived in Cincinnati in 1952 and served as a pastor at the Zion Baptist Church in Avondale for 32 years before founding and serving an additional thirteen years at the Olivet Baptist Church in Silverton; and

WHEREAS, before arriving in Cincinnati, Dr. Booth also served at the First Baptist Church in Warrenton, Virginia, a congregation in Macomb, Illinois, and the First Baptist Church of Gary, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, Dr. Booth founded and led the Progressive National Baptist Convention, a denomination that supported Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his fight for freedom, and which continues to serve millions of members to this day; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Booth led the 1963 Membership Campaign for the Cincinnati NAACP to increase membership to 6,100; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Booth's pioneering leadership in the 1960s and early 1970s, his congregation at the Zion Baptist Church sponsored and constructed five housing developments that provided 339 units of affordable housing to seniors and families in Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Dr. Booth founded and chaired Cincinnati's Opportunities Industrialization Center, which provided training to unemployed individuals within the City; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Booth was the first African American member of the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees, was a founding member of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, served on the board of the Cincinnati City Gospel Mission, served as vice president of the Gospel World Alliance, and helped to establish the Marva Collins Preparatory School in Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast, and the National Prayer League; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Booth's passion for uplifting humanity helped to transform the religious, social, and political climate of his time; and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2023, Dr. Booth was inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Commission's Civil Rights Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Booth passed away in Cincinnati on November 16, 2002, but his legacy continues to serve people throughout the City and the Nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize Dr. L. Venchael Booth, Sr. as a 2024 City of Cincinnati Black History Month honoree for his faithful service and innumerable contributions to civil rights in Cincinnati and throughout the United States.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to the family of Dr. Booth through the office of Vice Mayor Jan Michele Kearney.

Passed: _____, 2024

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Vice Mayor Jan Michele Kearney