

EESW

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2026

RECOGNIZING Sherman Kinney Jr. and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for Mr. Kinney's dedicated service to the Cincinnati community and the American people.

WHEREAS, Sherman Kinney Jr. was born on October 12, 1925, in Lexington, Kentucky, and later moved to Cincinnati's historic Black neighborhood of the West End, much of which was later demolished through the Kenyon-Barr Urban Renewal Plan; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kinney served his country during World War II as a Montford Point Marine, joining the first generation of Black Marines and training under harsh, segregated conditions at Montford Point Camp in Jacksonville, North Carolina, on the Camp Lejeune installation; and

WHEREAS, the service of Mr. Kinney and his fellow Montford Point Marines helped break racial barriers and paved the way for the integration of the United States military; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kinney was a trailblazing entrepreneur who founded S.K. Janitorial Service in the late 1950s, operating initially from his family's home in Evanston and later from a facility on Reading Road in North Avondale; and

WHEREAS, S.K. Janitorial Service provided 24-hour service to residences, businesses, factories, schools, banks, and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and was recognized as Cincinnati's first Black-owned janitorial service to secure major corporate and government contracts throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kinney further supported minority-owned businesses as a staff member in the administration of Governor John J. Gilligan, serving as a senior procurement specialist for the Office of Minority Business Enterprise within the Ohio Department of Economic and Community Development, and later as an equal opportunity contract compliance officer for the City of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kinney devoted himself to civic leadership and community involvement, serving on the Board of Trustees of Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses and the board of the Hamilton County Unit of the American Cancer Society, as a past second vice president of the Cincinnati Branch of the NAACP, and as an honorary chairman of the 1971 Business and Cultural Exposition, also known as the Black Exposition; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kinney volunteered through the Business Resource Center of the Chamber of Commerce Foundation of Cincinnati to advance minority-owned businesses and mentored youth through Big Brothers Association of Cincinnati and through his sponsorship and coaching of the St. Mark's School and parish baseball team, for which he purchased equipment and transported players to practices; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kinney and his wife, Mattie Bell Kinney, built a shared legacy of civic engagement, opening their family home at 409 Clinton Springs Avenue in North Avondale as a safe space for youth and welcoming civic leaders, neighbors, and community members for meetings, dinners, and gatherings that promoted interracial understanding, community organizing, and public service throughout Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kinney passed away in Cincinnati on July 7, 1991, at the age of 65, leaving a lasting legacy of military service, entrepreneurship, civic leadership, mentorship, and support for Cincinnati's youth and minority-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kinney will be remembered as a beloved husband, father, grandfather, veteran, entrepreneur, community organizer, mentor, volunteer, and friend whose service and dedication touched the lives of many in Cincinnati and throughout 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 Sherman Kinney Jr. for his inspirational bravery and enduring commitment to his community and country.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to the family of Mr. Kinney through the office of Councilmember Anna Albi.

Passed: _____, 2026

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Anna Albi