

RESOLUTION NO. 16 - 2022

RECOGNIZING and honoring Curtis J. Fuller for his groundbreaking and innovative work in local media, his commitment to supporting and uplifting our community, and for his many contributions to the City of Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, Curtis J. Fuller is an Emmy award winning veteran broadcast journalist with a broadcasting career that has spanned more than 40 years, having served as anchor for the Cincinnati NBC affiliate WLWT-TV for most of his career, and he has received numerous accolades and awards for his excellence in journalism and his tireless commitment to community service; and

WHEREAS, Curtis is a 2021 inductee in the prestigious Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Silver Circle, which is an elite hall of fame style honor for television professionals who have made lasting contributions to the industry and to the community for 25 or more years, and Curtis is one of the first journalists inducted into the Central Florida Association of Black Journalists and Broadcasters Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Curtis has been recognized by the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists, the Cincinnati Society of Professional Journalists, the Associated Press, United Press International, the Orlando Press Club, and the Cleveland Press Club, and in 2021, the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners named a day in his honor for his many contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS, Curtis is the recipient of the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award, the YMCA's Legend Award, was named one of Cincinnati's Men of Honor, and has been voted Cincinnati's Favorite TV Personality; and

WHEREAS, Curtis has consistently demonstrated professionalism, leadership, and a deep commitment to our community, and as a community advocate, Curtis led a proposal to Cincinnati City Council for an inner-city street to be renamed in honor of high school honor student Derrick Turnbow, who was tragically shot and killed; he led the effort to have the City of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Reds honor the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's entrance into Major League Baseball; and he also envisioned and produced an eight-day Cincinnati Jazz and Heritage Festival; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Curtis stepped away from his familiar anchor desk to once again demonstrate his commitment to the City of Cincinnati, and he gained international attention as a political newcomer by winning the primary election in his bid to become the first directly elected Mayor of Cincinnati in 75 years and he received a respectable 45 percent of the vote in the general election but returned to WLWT-TV in July 2003 after hosting his own talk show on WCIN radio; and

WHEREAS, Courtis is a much sought-after speaker and the longtime host for dozens of local Cincinnati events, including the MLK Jr. Coalition King Day, Opera Goes to Church, Council of Christian Communion, Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, NAACP Freedom Fund, Cincinnati Human Relations and Midwest Regional Black Family Reunion; and

WHEREAS, Courtis is currently an advisory board member for the Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation, an honorary member of the Cincinnati Opera Board, and previously served as a member of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Board, the Greater Cincinnati Tall Stacks Commission, the U.S. Department of Education's Back-to-School National Advisory Board, and the Executive Board of the National Association of Black Journalists; and

WHEREAS, Courtis believes in Cincinnati and is always looking for ways to serve his community, and in 2010, a scholarship was established in his name to help young aspiring journalists achieve their dreams; and


WHEREAS, in 2012, Courtis founded the Greater Cincinnati Association of Black Journalists, a chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, after the Greater Cincinnati region had gone without an active chapter for almost a decade; 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 Courtis Fuller for his outstanding support for our community, his legacy as a broadcaster, and for his many contributions to the City of Cincinnati.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and a copy be provided to Courtis J. Fuller by the Council Office of Councilmember Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney.

Passed: February 16, 2022

Attest: 
Clerk


Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney