

EESW

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2025

RECOGNIZING the Urban Appalachian Council and its successor organization the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and Council for the Coalition's fifty years of advocacy and service for the citizens of Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, the Urban Appalachian Council was founded to advocate for the equality of the millions of people who emigrated from the Upland South (Appalachia) to the industrial heartland, people who faced poverty, marginalization, and disparities in health, environmental justice, and community investment; and

WHEREAS, for the past fifty years, the Urban Appalachian Council and Urban Appalachian Community Coalition have encouraged and supported a diverse coalition of volunteers and paid workers to teach, organize, conduct research, and create art with the goal of making Cincinnati a healthier and more just place to live for all its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition partners with the Appalachian Community Development Association—which organizes an annual Appalachian festival, one of the largest arts and crafts festivals in the nation—and with the Southern Appalachian Writers Cooperative—which publishes Pine Mountain Sand and Gravel, a significant literary journal; and

WHEREAS, at the time the Urban Appalachian Council was established, the heart of the Appalachian social movement in Cincinnati was a network of General Educational Development ("GED") schools, located in church basements and storefronts in the East End, Lower and East Price Hill, Northside, South Fairmount, Camp Washington, and College Hill, which doubled as community centers; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Appalachian Council provided funding, management support, and volunteers to the centers, and some of these community centers still exist and serve as GED centers and meeting spaces for the community, continuing the mission of the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition; and

WHEREAS, urban Appalachian residents contribute to our region through their work in vital sectors such as construction, manufacturing, education, and health, while also enriching Cincinnati's cultural landscape as writers, poets, storytellers, filmmakers, and other creative voices; 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 the 50th Anniversary of the Urban Appalachian Council and its successor organization the Urban Appalachian Community

Coalition, and further recognize and celebrate the cultural and civic contributions of urban Appalachians to Greater Cincinnati.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition through the office of Councilmember Mark Jeffreys.

Passed: _____, 2025

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Mark Jeffreys