

AWB

RESOLUTION NO. _____-2021

RECOGNIZING and honoring Tim'm T. West, a "Brave Educator," for his advocacy as an educator, poet, and artist addressing the intersection of race, gender, sexuality, and social justice.

WHEREAS, June is LGBT Pride Month, which celebrates the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender ("LGBT") community and recognizes the impact LGBTQIA individuals have had on the City of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Mr. West was born on July 6, 1972, in Cincinnati, Ohio, the second son of nine children, to Charles Edward, a minister, and Irma Pearl Stinson, an administrative assistant and nurse; and

WHEREAS, Mr. West obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke University in philosophy, with concentrations in women's studies and pre-law, followed by a Master of Arts degree in liberal studies and philosophy from The New School for Social Research, New York City, and a Master of Arts degree from Stanford University in modern thought and literature; and

WHEREAS, Mr. West is the author of several books which explore Black and gay identity in America; and

WHEREAS, in 2000 and for several years thereafter, Mr. West collaborated with two other artists in California's Bay Area to create the Black and queer hip-hop group DDC, as a form of advocacy for youth, and to express the political and social perspectives of an increasingly vocal Black and queer community; and

WHEREAS, after DDC disbanded in 2007, Mr. West continued as a musical and literary artist, creating several books of poetry and solo musical projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 Mr. West was named the Senior Managing Director of Teach for America's LGBTQ+ Community Initiative; and

WHEREAS, LGBTHistoryMonth.com named Mr. West an "Icon" of LGBT History Month in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Mr. West serves as a board member of the LGBTQ Institute at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, GA, where he is now a diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant; and

WHEREAS, after his return to Cincinnati in 2017, Mr. West graduated from School Board School, and now serves on its board of directors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. West is also a member of the boards of Wordplay-Cincy, and the Buckeye Flame, in addition to co-founding Cincinnati Black Pride and serving on its board; and

WHEREAS, as a “Brave Educator,” fierce advocate, and creative innovator, Mr. West has woven the threads of race, gender, sexuality, and social justice into a single tapestry; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Mayor and Council of the City of Cincinnati hereby recognize Tim’ m T. West, “Brave Educator,” for his advocacy as an educator, poet, and artist addressing the intersection of race, gender, sexuality, and social justice.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of council and copies be provided to Mr. West through the office of Councilmember Chris Seelbach.

Passed: _____, 2021

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Seelbach