

EESW

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2023

**RECOGNIZING** Reverend Daniel A. Buford as a 2023 City of Cincinnati Black History Month honoree and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cincinnati for his commitment to human rights, religious freedom, social justice, as well as history and arts in Cincinnati and communities around the world.

WHEREAS, Reverend Daniel A. Buford is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, and an alumnus of Withrow High School, where he helped create the school's first Black History Month Assembly in 1970, Xavier University, and the University of Cincinnati, where he later was the Director of both Black Campus Ministries and United Christian Ministries for eight years; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Buford's maternal great grandparents, Sanford Green and Roberta Green, started a homestead in Madisonville over 100 years ago after moving from Owenton, Kentucky as part of the Great Migration of African Americans, and were the first generation born free of slavery; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Buford's ministry, which is influenced by the lives and writings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Alan Boesak, Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, James Cone, Howard Thurman, J. Alfred Smith Sr., William D. Mosley, and others, began at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church in Cincinnati, where he gave his first sermon in 1974 and was ordained in 1977; and

WHEREAS, during his time as a community organizer in Oakland, where he and the Emerging Leaders Program of Allen Temple would prevent the elimination of bus stops outside the church, renovate local infrastructure such as sidewalks and potholes, and prevent the construction of a mega-crematorium in a predominantly Black and Brown community, Reverend Buford helped create a citizen-police review board and helped pass a human rights reporting requirement for the State of California; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Buford's talents and faith called him to be a co-creator of a peace and justice organization known as the Third World Caucus, an extension of the Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) which was originally founded by Dr. King in response to the Vietnam War; a founding organizer, curriculum developer, and trainer at the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond based in New Orleans, Louisiana; and an organizer of Cincinnati's first Kwanza celebrations and the Coalition Against the Cincinnati Military Academy at the University of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, after leaving Ohio, Reverend Buford became the Executive Director of the Ecumenical Peace Institute in Berkeley, California, and later created "Seizing the Power of Experience," an educational training model for teaching African American adults; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Buford published the research article "Close Encounters of the Dangerous Kind," which deals with the deaths of unarmed African Americans at the hands of

police officers, and which was submitted in a report to the United Nations Human Rights Commission and was published by Rabbi Michael Lerner of Tikkun Magazine; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Buford is proud of his long association with the Jewish community and his personal relationships with rabbis and congregants; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Buford is an African American with indigenous bloodlines to the Wyandotte and Cherokee peoples and has advocated for the religious freedoms and sovereignty of Native Americans such as the Ohlone, Navajo, and Hopi peoples; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Buford's work for social justice and human rights has taken him to Japan, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Switzerland, and Honduras; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Buford represented the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute before the Human Rights Committee in Switzerland, speaking on human rights abuses following Hurricane Katrina and joined a fifty-person delegation in Honduras to witness, report, and protest human rights abuse; and

WHEREAS, as a self-described, "Harlem Renaissance Man," Reverend Buford is an accomplished artist who understands that creativity can speak to the human condition and the hearts and souls of people who experience it long after the artist is off the scene; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize Reverend Daniel A. Buford as a 2023 City of Cincinnati Black History Month honoree for his decades of continuous leadership and commitment to human rights, religious freedom, social justice, and the arts, as well as his dedication to grassroots social changes for those who have been marginalized in the City of Cincinnati and communities around the world.

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

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

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Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Mark Jeffreys