

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2024

RECOGNIZING Robert Sanders and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for his lifetime of dedicated work and his investment of time, treasure, and talent into the City of Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders was born and raised in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood by his grandmother Lula Mae Warren, who provided him with a solid foundation in life and encouraged him to succeed in his education, while also teaching him the value of a good work ethic; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders attended the Rothenberg Preparatory Academy, Bloom Middle School, Taft High School, and The Ohio State University as an Ohio State Young Scholar, where he received his Bachelor of Science before returning home to Cincinnati to begin his career in banking and real estate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders has continued his work in the financial sector for his entire career, with jobs as a commercial mortgage underwriter, a commercial real estate development associate, a Business Development Officer specializing in SBA Lending, a Director of Commercial Development in the public sector, and most recently, he started his own commercial real estate development company, the Sanders Development Group; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the Sanders Development Group can be seen in several of Cincinnati's historically disinvested communities, including the West End, Bond Hill, Roselawn, Camp Washington, Avondale, Evanston, and Walnut Hills, where blighted buildings have been redeveloped into class A office space, thereby adding jobs to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Sanders Development Group actively supports several local non-profits by providing them with business and real estate development expertise to better position them to impact the communities in which they serve; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders is recognized as a mentor by many people of color in real estate and currently provides his office space for use by up-and-coming developers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders has served on the boards of Talbert Services, the Cincinnati Development Fund, the Home Ownership Center Board, the National Association for Industrial and Office Parks, and is a founding board member of the Urban Land Institute's "Real Estate Accelerator Lab," a term Mr. Sanders created to describe the program's intentionality around accelerating the level of BIPOC participation in real estate development; and

WHEREAS, in honor of his late grandmother Lula Mae Warren, Mr. Sanders created a scholarship to specifically benefit first generation college students from the Cincinnati area; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders has dedicated his life to improving his community through development and has blazed a trail for other minority developers to follow; 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 Robert Sanders for his lifetime of dedicated work and his investment of time, treasure, and talent into the City of Cincinnati.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to Robert Sanders through the office of Councilmember Reggie Harris.

Passed: _____, 2024

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Reggie Harris