

EESW

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

**RECOGNIZING** the inscription of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks as a 2023 United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (“UNESCO”) World Heritage Site; and **CELEBRATING** the history, culture, and contributions of the Indigenous peoples of our region.

WHEREAS, the World Heritage Convention was created by the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (“UNESCO”) in 1972 to protect the world’s cultural and natural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks are a series of eight monumental earthen enclosure complexes built across southern Ohio between 2,000 and 1,600 years ago by a brilliant American Indian civilization; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks exhibit an astonishing geometric precision of huge squares, circles, and octagons, with forms, techniques, and dimensions consistently deployed across a wide geographic region; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks include astronomical alignments of great variety and accuracy, aligned not only with the cycles of the sun, but also with the far more complex rising and setting patterns of the moon; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks are the most representative surviving expressions of the Indigenous tradition now referred to as the Hopewell culture; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks served as ceremonial centers, built by dispersed, non-hierarchical groups whose way of life was supported by a mix of foraging and farming; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks were at the center of a continent-wide sphere of influence and interaction, as evidenced by archaeological finds of exceptionally and finely crafted ritual objects fashioned from exotic raw materials from distant places; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks are an important example of the history of the Indigenous peoples of America that help tell the world the whole story of America and the remarkable diversity of its cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Ancient Earthworks, a component of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks located in Warren County of the Cincinnati region, consist of the most elaborate and largest Hopewell hilltop enclosure, encoding solar and lunar alignments, and exemplifying architectural techniques of building earthen walls and water features in relation to the topographic conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks are the first sites in Ohio and the Cincinnati region to be inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site; and

WHEREAS, Cincinnati is blessed and honored to have these monuments of global historical and architectural significance in our state and region; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Mayor and Council hereby recognize the inscription of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks as a 2023 United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (“UNESCO”) World Heritage Site and celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of the Indigenous peoples of our region.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that copies be provided to The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks Executive Committee through the office of Councilmember Mark Jeffreys.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

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

Submitted by Councilmember Mark Jeffreys