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RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2025

RECOGNIZING Equality Ohio and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for Equality Ohio's twenty years of advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ+ lived and legal equality.

WHEREAS, Equality Ohio was founded in 2005 by a group of 65 dedicated LGBTQ+ activists and allies from all corners of Ohio after voters passed a constitutional amendment prohibiting same sex marriage and civil unions, and for twenty years Equality Ohio has provided vital and life-saving advocacy and services to Ohio's LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, after a year of research examining community lawyering best practices around the United States and an assessment of over two thousand community surveys, Equality Ohio established the only entity in Ohio providing culturally humble and sensitive legal assistance to support a growing need within the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, Ohio still does not provide basic nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ+ Ohioans in housing, employment, or public accommodations, yet Equality Ohio has aided 37 Ohio locales in the passage of non-discrimination legislation and fourteen Ohio locales in the passage of a "conversion therapy" ban; and

WHEREAS, the historic Equality Ohio Legal Clinic has served over four thousand Ohioans since 2019, becoming the statewide experts on LGBTQ+-specific legal concerns, and is one of the only two legal clinics of its kind in the country; and

WHEREAS, Equality Ohio's services are required now more than ever as transphobia, homophobia, and queerphobia are growing exponentially in the United States, leading to violence, discrimination, and legislation that impacts LGBTQ+ Ohioans' concrete health outcomes and life expectancy; 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 Equality Ohio for the organization's twenty years of advocacy on behalf of Ohio's LGBTQ+ community.

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

Passed: _____, 2025

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Mayor Aftab Pureval, Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, President Pro Tem Victoria Parks, Councilmember Mark Jeffreys, and Councilmembers Anna Albi, Jeff Cramerding, Scotty Johnson, Evan Nolan, Meeka Owens, and Seth Walsh