

MSS *EEOW*

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2023

EXPRESSING the deep and sincere regret and apology of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cincinnati (“City”) to former residents of the City’s lower West End, their descendants, and to all Cincinnatians for the elimination of the lower West End community and the emotional pain and material loss that it caused; and **COMMITTING** the City to work toward building a more just Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati’s (“City’s”) lower West End was once a thriving enclave for many of the City’s Black residents and home to social, education, and faith institutions including the Holy Trinity Church and Holy Trinity School; St. Anthony and St. Henry parish churches; DePoores High School; Jackson, Sherman, and the 12th District public schools; the 8th St. YMCA; the Cotton Club; the Hotel Sterling; the Lincoln, Dixie, and Pekin theaters; and countless small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City’s 1948 Metropolitan Master Plan and the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 established funding and development of the Kenyon-Barr Urban Redevelopment project to construct the Queensgate Center for light industry and Millcreek Expressway (Interstate 75); and

WHEREAS, under the guise of “progress,” this project razed the lower West End community forcing the removal of 25,737 residents, 97 percent of whom were Black; and

WHEREAS, this displacement rooted in institutional racism resulted in the destruction of social, political, cultural, and faith networks and diminished proximity to family, work, leisure, education, and entertainment for Black residents of the lower West End; and

WHEREAS, the City failed to deliver on its promise to adequately re-house displaced residents, resulting in community trauma, the loss of generational wealth, and eradication of the social fabric of this Black community; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the harm perpetuated by this egregious act of institutional racism, the Mayor, this Council, and this City pledge to work toward recognition and a remedy for this injustice; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council extend to former residents of the City of Cincinnati’s lower West End, their descendants, and to all Cincinnatians a deep and sincere

expression of apology and regret for the emotional pain and material loss stemming from this time, and a sincere commitment to work toward building a more just Cincinnati.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: _____, 2023

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Scotty Johnson