



**Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney**  
*Councilmember*

202101621

April 20, 2021

## MOTION

WE MOVE that City Council allocate \$25,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act to the Midwest Regional Black Family Reunion (BFR), managed by I Hear Music, Inc. The National Conference of Negro Women, led by Dr. Dorothy Height, started Black Family Reunions across the country approximately 30 years ago. The Midwest Regional Black Family Reunion in Cincinnati is the only survivor. BFR brings together 25,000 patrons each year for a three-day family-focused cultural event that includes a free community breakfast, parade, job and career fair, and a weekend festival at Sawyer Point with health screenings, informational sessions, vendors, music, entertainment, food, and national artists and speakers. Due to the COVID pandemic, BFR was virtual in the summer of 2020 and will be virtual again this summer of 2021.

  
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## STATEMENT

The Midwest Regional Black Family Reunion (BFR) is one of Cincinnati's largest family-focused events drawing more than 25,000 patrons each year to Sawyer Point and other venues. It is a three-day cultural weekend event, including music, the arts, a free community breakfast, a job fair, and free health screenings for men, women and children. BFR supports many local vendors and businesses in Greater Cincinnati. The event has brought together consumers, corporations, and communities for more than 30 consecutive years.