

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2024**

**RECOGNIZING** Candice Matthews Brackeen as a 2024 City of Cincinnati Black History Month honoree for her exceptional contributions to innovation, diversity, and inclusion within the technology sector through her work with the Lightship Foundation and Black Tech Week; and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cincinnati for her dedication to fostering an inclusive ecosystem for underrepresented founders in Cincinnati and beyond.

WHEREAS, Candice Matthews Brackeen, a homeowner in the Clifton neighborhood and a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, has been integral to building an inclusive ecosystem in Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Candice Matthews Brackeen has served on the board of the Cincinnati Futures Commission and purchased the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Cedric G. and Patricia Neils Boulter House to be used as a residence for creatives and entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, her work has significantly impacted Cincinnati and the broader tech ecosystem by supporting diverse entrepreneurs through the Lightship Foundation and Black Tech Week; and

WHEREAS, the Lightship Foundation, under Candice Matthews Brackeen's leadership, has been instrumental in providing mentorship, resources, and funding to minority-led startups, thereby bridging the gap in venture capital funding and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Black Tech Week, led by Candice Matthews Brackeen, serves as a groundbreaking event dedicated to celebrating, empowering, and elevating Black and minority tech professionals and entrepreneurs, offering networking, education, and investment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Candice Matthews Brackeen's efforts have not only contributed to the economic growth and innovation within Cincinnati but have also set a national example for creating more equitable and inclusive opportunities in the tech industry; and

WHEREAS, through her visionary leadership and unwavering commitment, Candice Matthews Brackeen has cultivated a community that values diversity, equity, and inclusion, making significant strides towards reducing disparities in the tech ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, Candice Matthews Brackeen's initiatives, including the establishment of comprehensive programs and partnerships, have empowered countless entrepreneurs and innovators, fostering a culture of success and sustainability in an ever-evolving industry; and

WHEREAS, her work has been recognized as not only transformative in the realm of business and technology, but also as a catalyst for social change, reflecting her deep commitment to leveraging technology as a force for good; 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 Candice Matthews Brackeen for her outstanding leadership and significant contributions to the technology sector, particularly in supporting underrepresented entrepreneurs through the Lightship Foundation and Black Tech Week, and for her role in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the City of Cincinnati and the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem.

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

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

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Aftab Pureval, Mayor

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

Submitted by Councilmember Mark Jeffreys