

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2022

**RECOGNIZING** and expressing the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati to Barb Smith as a 2022 City of Cincinnati Black History Month honoree for her continuous leadership and work with Journey Steel, Inc., Journeys Soaring Impact, and other organizations in the City of Cincinnati, as well as for her dedication to advancing racial justice, equality for all persons, and the protection of our sacred democracy.

WHEREAS, Barb Smith is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio and the youngest of eight children, whose parents instilled in her at an early age the importance of education and motivated her to optimize her opportunities as a student in the Cincinnati Public Schools system; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology with a construction specialty; and

WHEREAS, immediately after college, Ms. Smith obtained six years of professional construction experience with Barton-Malow Construction, Wm. Cargile Contractor, Inc., and D.A.G. Construction Co., Inc. in the roles of project manager and estimator, and also acquired eighteen years of architectural and engineering experience as a senior estimator working with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. and Hixson Architects/Engineers; and

WHEREAS, as an African American female professional in an industry dominated by Caucasian males, Ms. Smith recognized the need to be the change she wanted to see in others, and to demonstrate to the next generations of African American youth that they also could likewise pursue a career in such an industry and could own a successful company; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Ms. Smith partnered with her long-time friend Tom Garten and founded Cincinnati-based Journey Steel Inc. to initiate the change they wished to see in the construction industry, and together they committed to positioning Journey Steel, Inc. as a dependable, experienced, and qualified contractor, delivering on-time, safety-driven, in-budget projects to their clients each and every time; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith currently serves on the advisory boards of the Reds Community Fund, IKRON, Square1, Journeys Soaring Impact, and the Cincinnati Regional Chamber, to ensure consideration of inclusivity perspectives in the decision processes of these organizations; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith believes it is important to give back and serve the communities in which she lives and does business, and through Journey Steel's non-profit arm, Journeys Soaring Impact, inner-city youth are empowered with the tools and support needed to begin career paths enabling them to support themselves and their families, and create hope and change for the generations that follow them; and

WHEREAS, the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City included Journey Steel, Inc. on its 2021 list of the "100 Fastest Growing Inner City Businesses," and recognized Ms. Smith and Journeys Soaring Impact with its most prestigious award, the Chevron Dorothy Terrell Community Impact Award; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith's hard work, passion, commitment, and integrity have been instrumental to the successful growth of the Journeys Soaring Impact program; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize Barb Smith as a 2022 City of Cincinnati Black History Month honoree for her continuous leadership and work with Journey Steel, Inc., Journeys Soaring Impact, and other organizations in the City of Cincinnati, as well as for her dedication to advancing racial justice, equality for all persons, and the protection of our sacred democracy.

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

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

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Aftab Pureval, Mayor

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

Submitted by Councilmember Jeffreys