

RESOLUTION NO. 40 -2021

RECOGNIZING and honoring Allison Kurtz for her advocacy on behalf of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual (“LGBTQIA”) youth in the community.

WHEREAS, June is LGBTQIA Pride Month, which celebrates the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual (“LGBTQIA”) community and recognizes the impact LGBTQIA individuals have had on the city of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Allison Grace Kurtz has become a leading advocate for LGBTQIA youth since coming out at age 16 as transgender, and becoming a patient at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital (“CCH”) Transgender Health Clinic; and

WHEREAS, after being unable to return to her Catholic high school after transition, Allison joined the Lakota West High School (“Lakota West”) family where she was embraced and supported by the school and district, quickly became involved in advocacy work, met with Lakota Local School District board members and administrators to advocate for fair and equitable treatment of transgender students, and inspired a district-wide change in administrative policy in partnership with the then-principal of Lakota West, G. Elgin Card; and

WHEREAS, Allison became the first openly transgender female student to serve as president of Lakota West’s Gay/Straight/Trans Alliance, leading the group in service projects and advocacy for LGBTQIA students; and

WHEREAS, as a patient of CCH’s Transgender Health Clinic, Allison was chosen to represent the Clinic as a Youth Advisor and worked with its advisory council to assist its grant-writing and planning efforts; and

WHEREAS, Allison was chosen to represent CCH as its first openly transgender Children’s Miracle Network (“CMN”) Champion and regional ambassador, and is featured as a transgender patient in commercials and billboards throughout the region as part of the hospital’s “Kids Can” marketing campaign; and

WHEREAS, Allison’s advocacy, poise, and grace attracted the attention of the national CMN organization, which selected Allison as one of only ten national ambassadors, and the first openly transgender national ambassador to represent CMN across North America; and

WHEREAS, as a national CMN ambassador, Allison’s image appeared on General Mills products, on store displays in Speedway, and in Wal-Mart stores nationwide, where she shared her story as a transgender female and mental health advocate; and

WHEREAS, Allison was chosen as a Grand Marshall of the Cincinnati Pride Parade in 2018 representing the CCH Transgender Health Clinic and the Living With Change Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Allison represented CCH and CMN as an advisor for Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" Foundation, whereby she inspired thousands with her advocacy for mental health and LGBTQIA youth by sharing her personal journey as a transgender woman and mental illness survivor; and

WHEREAS, Allison is currently a sophomore at the University of Dayton, where she is pursuing a degree in English, planning to professionally author LGBTQIA narratives, and actively participates in the university's Spectrum student group for LGBTQIA students and allies; and

WHEREAS, in May 2021, Allison was honored as an "Outstanding Woman of Achievement—Emerging Leader" by the YWCA of Hamilton, Ohio, as the first transgender female awardee; and

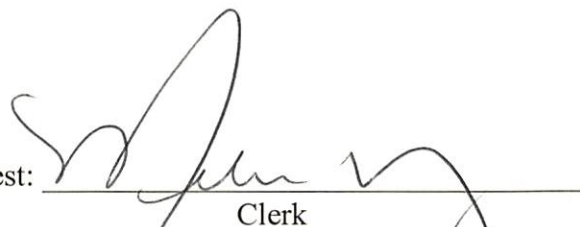
WHEREAS, Allison Grace Kurtz has made it her personal mission to be a voice and advocate for all LGBTQIA youth, working to guide and serve these children and families so that they will have a role model to emulate, and know that there are others like them in the world; now, therefore,

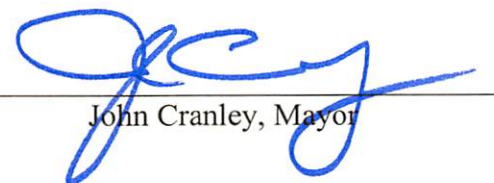
BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1: That the Mayor and Council of the City of Cincinnati recognize Allison Grace Kurtz for her advocacy on behalf of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual ("LGBTQIA") youth in the community.

Section 2: That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and copies be provided to Allison Kurtz through the office of Councilmember Chris Seelbach.

Passed: June 9, 2021

Attest: 
Clerk


John Cranley, Mayor

Submitted by Councilmember Chris Seelbach