

RESOLUTION NO. 12 - 2021

**RECOGNIZING** and expressing the appreciation of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cincinnati to Ms. Iris Roley during Black History Month 2021, for her leadership and activism in public safety and criminal justice reform, and her years of public service to the citizens of the City of Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, Ms. Roley, a mother of three and grandmother of five, is a partner in RoSho Awards and Graphics, the only Black-owned engraving company in the Cincinnati area, in keeping with her entrepreneurial upbringing by her grandfather, Big David Kinebrew, proprietor of a bail bonding business; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Roley's grandmother, Vivian Kinebrew, was a nurse and social activist, and raised Ms. Roley to oppose mistreatment of Black citizens locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Roley was educated at the Famous Black House, formerly known as the Rockdale Temple, in Avondale; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Roley is an original member of the Cincinnati Black United Front, and as its Project Manager implemented a plan of action to address the wrongful deaths of two unarmed Black men at the hands of the Cincinnati Police Department, and mobilized Cincinnati's Black community to report, collect, and document over 400 instances of police brutality and misconduct; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Roley's efforts were the catalyst for the formation of the historic Collaborative Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Cincinnati and the United States Department of Justice – the only settlement in the country to include community members in the design of public safety and to implement a focus on problem-solving strategies for communities and police; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Roley has been an invited speaker and consultant in many United States cities, including Ferguson, MO; Baltimore, MD; Cleveland, OH; Milwaukee, WI; as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, most notably, Ms. Roley served as a consultant to attorneys, organizers, plaintiffs, and officials in the City of New York concerning the elimination of the "Stop and Frisk" policies employed by the New York Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Roley has dedicated fifteen years of her life to the reform of police departments and the implementation of effective public safety and criminal justice policy, and currently serves on several local non-profit and governmental boards, including the Amos Project, the City Manager's Advisory Board, the Police Chief Advisory Board, the Community Police

Partnering Center, the Unofficial Juvenile Court in Madisonville, and the Summer Enrichment Program for math and science; now, therefore,

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

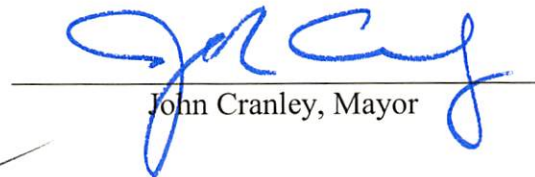
Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize Ms. Iris Roley as a 2021 City of Cincinnati Black History Month honoree for her positive impact on the City of Cincinnati, and her leadership and dedication to advancing criminal justice and policing reform in Cincinnati.

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

Passed: February 24, 2021

Attest:

  
Clerk

  
John Cranley, Mayor

Submitted by Councilmember Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney