

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2026**

**RECOGNIZING** Mr. Derrick Braziel as a 2026 Black History Month honoree and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for Mr. Braziel's profound impact in Cincinnati's entrepreneurial ecosystem through his leadership with Pata Roja, the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, and the non-profit MORTAR.

WHEREAS, Derrick Braziel moved to the Cincinnati area in 2013, doing community work engaging Cincinnati's youth to empower them towards a path of economic mobility; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Braziel's work supporting Cincinnati entrepreneurs led to his co-founding of MORTAR Cincinnati, a nonprofit that offers historically marginalized entrepreneurs access to the necessary resources to run and start local businesses; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Braziel's leadership, MORTAR has supported more than 500 entrepreneurs locally and expanded programming across the country; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Braziel continues to be a driving force in Cincinnati's business and commerce through his opening of Pata Roja on Court Street, which was recognized as one of Cincinnati's best new restaurants; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Braziel has been honored by a number of prestigious institutions for his vital work in the Cincinnati community, including fellowships with Common Future – a national economic justice nonprofit – and non-profit Echoing Green as an outstanding emerging social entrepreneur; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Braziel is also recognized as one of *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 and the *Cincinnati Business Courier's* 40 Under 40; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Braziel is one of twenty global leaders to participate in the distinguished Obama Foundation Fellowship for his dedication to bringing forward a wave of new Black leaders imagining fresh business opportunities in Cincinnati and across the country; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Braziel is a dedicated champion for Black prosperity and mobility, and through his work as an entrepreneur, mentor, and community advocate, he leads with core values around community, love, self-improvement, and uplifting others; 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 Mr. Derrick Braziel as a 2026 Black History Month honoree for his innovative activism, leadership, and dedication.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to Mr. Braziel through the office of Councilmember Ryan James.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

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Aftab Pureval, Mayor

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

Submitted by Councilmember Ryan James