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RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2026

RECOGNIZING Antonio “AJ” Johnson as a 2026 Black History Month honoree and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for Mr. Johnson’s historic leadership as President of the Black Student Association at Xavier University, and for establishing a legacy that has resulted in fifty years of uninterrupted Black History Month programming.

WHEREAS, Antonio “AJ” Johnson began his academic journey at Xavier University in June 1971, distinguishing himself as a dedicated Urban Studies major, a talented musician in the school band, and an active member of the Roman Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, as the President of the Black Student Association, Mr. Johnson served as a bridge between the campus and the greater Cincinnati community, earning the deep respect of his peers, faculty, and neighbors through his compassionate and confident leadership; and

WHEREAS, in the mid-1970s, driven by a commitment to social change and justice, Mr. Johnson organized and implemented Xavier University’s first dedicated programming for Black Awareness Month, successfully leading these activities in February 1975 and 1976; and

WHEREAS, because of Mr. Johnson’s pioneering efforts, Xavier University has commemorated Black History Month (formerly Black Awareness Month) every year without interruption since his passing – a continuous fifty-year tradition that stands as a testament to his founding work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson’s legacy is further immortalized through the Antonio Johnson Scholarship, which honors a junior student who embodies the Jesuit value of *Cura Personalis* (“care for the whole person”) and demonstrates excellence in service to the African American community; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Antonio Johnson Gala & Scholarship Fundraiser ensures that Mr. Johnson’s spirit lives on, empowering future generations of student leaders to pursue education and social justice; 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 Antonio “AJ” Johnson as a 2026 Black History Month honoree for his visionary activism, life, and legacy.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to the family of Mr. Johnson through the office of Councilmember Meeka Owens.

Passed: _____, 2026

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Meeka Owens