

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2022

RECOGNIZING and expressing the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati to Cameron Evan Hardy during Black History Month 2022 for his outstanding service to the City of Cincinnati as an advocate for equity, accessibility, and improvement of our public transit system, especially for the City's Black community, who comprise the majority of Metro transit users.

WHEREAS, Cameron Evan Hardy, known as "Cam," is a lifetime resident of Cincinnati, Ohio, growing up in the Avondale and College Hill neighborhoods, deeply rooted in the Over-The-Rhine neighborhood, and coming of age in the Avondale and College Hill neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Cam has served on the Mt. Airy and Northside Community Councils, providing critical leadership on a diverse array of community projects; and

WHEREAS, as a Cincinnati resident, community advocate, and the founder and president of the Better Bus Coalition, Cam catalyzed successful grassroots campaigns to improve the public transit system and the experience of those who use it, from self-led, pro-bono work to install bus benches, host neighborhood forums, and organize litter cleanup events, to the successful passage of Issue 22, the first step toward an essential renewal and renovation of the regional public transit system; and

WHEREAS, Cam and the Better Bus Coalition continued to play a vital role in the second step of the movement to expand, upgrade, and improve the affordability of the region's public transportation network, by spearheading the Issue 7 campaign, which garnered support from 75% of voters in Hamilton County, Ohio and led to the first-ever countywide public transportation tax levy to expand the region's bus system; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Issue 7 resulted in increased annual funding to SORTA/Metro of over \$130 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, in large measure Issue 7's success is due to Cam's consistent dedication to coalition-building between a wide array of neighborhood leaders, transit users and experts, and stakeholders in the public and private sector; and

WHEREAS, before the investment of Hamilton County residents via the passage of Issue 7, Cincinnati's regional transit system had experienced decades of deterioration, budget cuts, dwindling ridership, and increased fares; and

WHEREAS, Issue 7 improved the accessibility of 343,326 jobs across the region, by adding new crosstown routes, more frequent and in some cases 24/7 service, new transit centers, and new, faster Bus Rapid Transit routes; and

WHEREAS, as reported by Bloomberg Economic News, transit systems directly contribute to positive economic growth for cities, with experts estimating the hidden economic value of transit for a city as anywhere from \$1.5 million to \$1.8 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, transportation data show that women, disabled persons, persons of color, working-class and low-income persons, and senior citizens are the highest consumers of public transit; and

WHEREAS, SORTA/Metro statistics indicate that 60% of Metro riders are Black, are employed either full- or part-time, and do not earn enough to own a vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Cam’s unparalleled leadership continuously pushed leaders to center and empower those who use transit — especially those most marginalized — and commit to making Cincinnati a more ‘connected’ City, thus improving the region for ALL; 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 Cameron Evan Hardy during Black History Month 2022 for his outstanding service to the City of Cincinnati as an advocate for equity, accessibility, and improvement of our public transit system, especially for the City’s Black community, who comprise the majority of Metro transit users.

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

Passed: _____, 2022

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Greg Landsman