

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2022

RECOGNIZING Marcel Hughes as a 2022 City of Cincinnati Pride Month honoree and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for his continuous leadership and work with Equitas Health, Caracole, and other organizations in the City of Cincinnati and the surrounding region, as well as his dedication to advancing LGBTQIA+ justice, equality for all persons, and the protection of our sacred democracy.

WHEREAS, being inspired by the Greater Cincinnati queer and allied people who helped create safe spaces for him to grow and thrive, Marcel Hughes pursued his life’s work of addressing the specific needs of the LGBTQIA+ community; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Marcel Hughes became involved with, and later, President of NKU Common Ground, an LGBTQIA+ advocacy group dedicated to building community and creating safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ NKU students; and

WHEREAS, Marcel Hughes founded NKU Colors of Pride, an organization that addresses the intersection of racial discrimination and discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Marcel Hughes partnered with the Campbell County Health Department to advocate for and provide quality and convenient access to HIV testing for NKU students; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Marcel Hughes began his work with Caracole, a nonprofit AIDS Service Organization in Greater Cincinnati and the tristate region that is devoted to positively changing lives in the fight against HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Marcel Hughes has been an active member and organizer with Cincinnati Black Pride, and in 2020 he received the Cincinnati Black Pride Spark Award, which is dedicated to young professionals who uplift their community through innovation and brave truth-telling; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Marcel Hughes was named among the twenty LGBTQIA+ leaders shaping Cincinnati in Cincinnati Magazine’s first-ever Pride issue for his continued commitment in fostering community; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Marcel Hughes began his work with Equitas Health, a regional non-profit LGBTQIA+-affirming community healthcare organization serving tens of thousands of patients in Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Marcel Hughes has demonstrated a personal commitment in making Cincinnati a more welcoming city for LGBTQIA+ people; 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 Marcel Hughes as a 2022 City of Cincinnati Pride Month honoree for his continuous leadership and work with Equitas Health, Caracole, and other organizations in the City of Cincinnati and the surrounding region, as well as his dedication to advancing LGBTQIA+ justice, equality for all persons, and the protection of our sacred democracy.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council, and that a copy be provided to Marcel Hughes through the Office of Councilmember Reggie Harris.

Passed: _____, 2022

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Reggie Harris