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RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2022

RECOGNIZING the month of June 2022 as Childhood Trauma Awareness Month in Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, emerging research in neuroscience and psychology reported by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (“NCTSN”) shows that trauma has a foundational impact on various aspects of human development across the lifespan; and

WHEREAS, the 2017-2018 National Survey of Childhood Health (“NSCH”) found that childhood trauma occurs in epidemic proportions in the United States with one of every five children 3-17 years old in Ohio experiencing two or more adverse experiences annually through separation from a parent, violence at home or in the community, sexual abuse, drug usage and alcohol, education difficulties, and other social/personal issues, and while all communities are impacted, this epidemic is particularly severe in low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, the impact of trauma on children is seen in malnutrition, mental and physical health issues, poor academic performance, physical abuse, and isolation, which lead to systems wired for “fight” or “flight” responses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, 28 percent of all children between ages 0-17 had experienced some type of childhood trauma, and with 2.7 million children in Ohio, this means approximately 729,000 children in 2019 experienced one or multiple forms of childhood trauma; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics describes adverse childhood experiences as stressful or traumatic events that occur during childhood and are strongly related to a wide range of health problems; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that adverse childhood experiences (“ACEs”) have a direct impact on the healthy development and lifelong health of individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention found that 1 in 6 adults experienced four or more types of ACEs, and preventing ACEs could reduce the number of adults with depression by as much as 44 percent; and

WHEREAS, the 2017-2018 NSCH found that more than 500,000 Ohio children reported one or more ACEs such as divorce, death of a parent, having a parent who served time in jail, experiencing violence with a person with mental illness or a problem with drugs or alcohol, or experiencing unfair treatment due to race or ethnicity, and more than 400,000 Ohio children reported two or more adverse childhood experiences; and

WHEREAS, culture can provide a source of strength, unique coping strategies, and specific resources to respond to trauma; and

WHEREAS, the NSCH found that the potential for childhood trauma exists among all major racial and ethnic groups in the United States, and some racial and ethnic minorities are at a greater risk for specific traumas and adverse effects from trauma; and

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association recognizes that racism is a contributing factor to childhood trauma for children of African American, Native, and Hispanic/Latinx descent; and

WHEREAS, the NCTSN acknowledges that poverty is a contributing factor to childhood trauma; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement, the juvenile justice system, substance use treatment providers, the education system, and social service networks (including foster care, adoption, and other child welfare services, disability services, and family and community supports systems) should all be equipped with up-to-date knowledge and training on trauma-informed and trauma-responsive care; 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 declare the month of June as Childhood Trauma Awareness Month in Cincinnati.

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

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

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Aftab Pureval, Mayor

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

Submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney