

RESOLUTION NO. 36 - 2024

RECOGNIZING the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and Council for the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden's committed work to strong community partnership and for being a strong representative for the City's climate activation strategies.

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden was founded in 1873 and opened its doors in 1875, making the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden the second oldest zoo in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden is a cornerstone of our city and region, welcoming over 1.7 million visitors per year, providing \$169 million annually of economic impact, providing educational programming for over 450,000 participants each year, being an award-winning partner in community redevelopment, and being named the Greenest Zoo in America since 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden's rich fourteen-year history in solar energy has initiated and contributed to the evolution of a comprehensive sustainability program including water reclamation and reuse, organic waste recycling, local procurement, farmed food, and more; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden will have a 4.55 Megawatt on-site solar capacity by the end of 2024, and these solar arrays have resulted in a surplus of electricity production and reduction in the Zoo's utility costs; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden formalized the Community Solar Resiliency Program (CSR), which aims to extend energy and climate resilience to demonstrate climate equity in Cincinnati neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden has installed four different solar arrays totaling 68 kilowatts around the City; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden aims to collect and reuse every drop of water that falls on its campus, which keeps sewage out of the Ohio River and out of its surrounding neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden ensures all new construction projects are built to LEED Platinum standards, and its campus has the first Living Building Challenge-certified project in the State of Ohio and in their industry; and

WHEREAS, commitments have been made by the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden to source supplies and services locally to invest back into the Cincinnati community and to better manage Earth's limited resources; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden's local sourcing efforts include developing an innovative and resilient food procurement plan and the goal to spend more dollars with minority-owned vendors; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden has set the standard for what sustainability looks like in the City, the State of Ohio, and across its industry as it continues to be recognized regionally and nationally for the efforts to combat the climate crisis; and

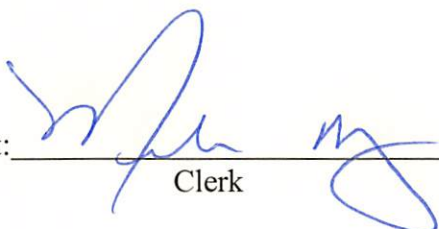
WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden is committed on multiple fronts to make the City better through climate resiliency, economic development, and more; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council recognize the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden for its committed work to strong community partnership, climate activation strategies, and for being a strong representative for the City.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden through the office of Councilmember Meeka Owens.

Passed: April 17, 2024

Attest: 
Clerk


Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Submitted by Councilmembers Meeka Owens, Mark Jeffreys, and Seth Walsh