

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2025

RECOGNIZING Sharon Coolidge and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for Sherry and her eleven-year career reporting on Cincinnati City Hall for The Cincinnati Enquirer.

WHEREAS, Sharon Coolidge, or Sherry to everyone who knows her, grew up in Boardman, Ohio, the daughter of public-school teachers John and Georgia Turco, and the older sister of Michael Turco, a public-school teacher in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Sherry graduated from Boardman High School in 1991, where she was the co-editor of the school newspaper, The Bugle, with her lifelong best friend, Tom Yatsco; and

WHEREAS, Sherry graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1995, where she worked for The BG News and, as an Alpha Phi, was editor of the Greek life newspaper, The Gavel; and

WHEREAS, Sherry has a thirty-year career in public service as a journalist, 22 of those years spent in Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Sherry's first job was as a police reporter for The Lorain Morning Journal in Northeast Ohio from 1995 to 1998; and

WHEREAS, Sherry moved to Fort Myers, Florida to work at The News-Press, where she fell in love with her co-worker and now-husband Alexander Coolidge, while covering the Thomas Edison Parade; and

WHEREAS, Sherry and Alexander Coolidge moved to Cincinnati in 2002 to work at The Cincinnati Enquirer, married the following year, and had son Jack in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Sherry covered Hamilton County Courts, Cincinnati Police, Hamilton County Government, and, for the last eleven years, Cincinnati City Hall; and

WHEREAS, in that time, Sherry has written thousands of stories and won numerous state and national awards for reporting that have made our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, Sherry championed public record laws so the community could have a better understanding of their elected leaders; and

WHEREAS, notably, Sherry wrote the special report "Lead's Dangerous Legacy," garnering an Associated Press Society of Ohio First Amendment Award and prompting the City to prosecute landlords who poisoned children; and

WHEREAS, Sherry chronicled a year in the life of the children and educators at Ethel M. Taylor Academy in Cincinnati, helping prompt the creation of the Cincinnati Poverty Collaborative; and

WHEREAS, Sherry was part of the Cincinnati Enquirer team that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2018 for “Seven Days of Heroin,” the story of one typical and terrible week in an epidemic that often went unnoticed, even as it destroyed lives every day; and

WHEREAS, Sherry was the first reporter to correctly identify Leelah Alcorn, a 17-year-old transgender girl whose suicide attracted international attention for her note that said, “[t]he only way I will rest in peace is if one day transgender people aren’t treated the way I was[;] [t]hey’re treated like humans, with valid feelings and human rights”; and

WHEREAS, Sherry uncovered corruption at City Hall and informed citizens about the behavior of their elected leaders behind closed doors; and

WHEREAS, the Associated Press Society of Ohio named Sherry Best News Writer in 2014, 2015, and 2023; and

WHEREAS, Sherry will continue a career in public service working for the Hamilton County Prosecutor’s Office; 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 Sharon Coolidge for her eleven-year career spent reporting on Cincinnati City Hall for The Cincinnati Enquirer.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to Sharon Coolidge through the office of Councilmember Seth Walsh.

Passed: _____, 2025

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Mayor Aftab Pureval, Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, President Pro Tem Victoria Parks, Councilmember Seth Walsh, and Councilmembers Anna Albi, Jeff Cramerding, Mark Jeffreys, Scotty Johnson, Evan Nolan, and Meeka Owens