

RESOLUTION NO. 70 -2023

RECOGNIZING and honoring Napoleon Maddox and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for his cultural contributions to the City of Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, Napoleon Maddox grew up in the Northside neighborhood and rose to fame beginning in the late 1990s as a hip-hop artist with the internationally recognized jazz/hip-hop ensemble ISWHAT?!; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Maddox continues to shine as a cultural arts ambassador, bringing global attention to the art form and his hometown of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Maddox is a playwright, producer, beatbox artist, visual artist, vocalist, and DJ who has worked with respected artists such as Chuck D, DJ Spinna, DJ Logic, and the late great Les Paul; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Maddox gained international acclaim across Europe, particularly in France, and was profiled in a four-part mini-series documentary on French television channel France 3; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Maddox's 2017 award-winning multimedia multi-genre performance piece Millie-Christine: Twice the First Time, based on the real-life story of his grand aunts, premiered in an opera-esque form in Italy with rave reviews, providing reverence for the history of the Black struggle and liberation; and

WHEREAS, during the year in which we celebrate the 50th anniversary of hip-hop, Mr. Maddox is, for the fifth year in a row, bringing the Underworld Black Arts Festival back to his hometown of Cincinnati from October 19-21, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Maddox explored the African diasporic history through music, film, dance, visual, spoken arts, and live performances with Danny Simmons, co-producer of HBO's Def Comedy Jam and older brother of hip-hop moguls Russell Simmons and Joseph Simmons; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Maddox is a true role model for youth and black and brown artists who want to take their art to the world while never forgetting their roots; and

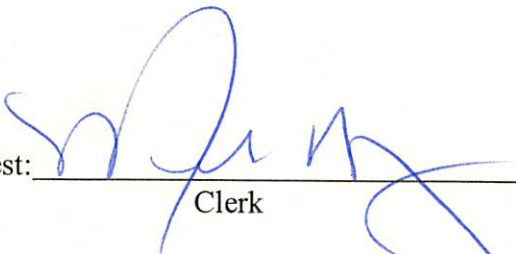
WHEREAS, Mr. Maddox is relentless in his desire to always continue to advance the fabric of the cultural arts community as a devoted arts ambassador for the Queen City; now, therefore,

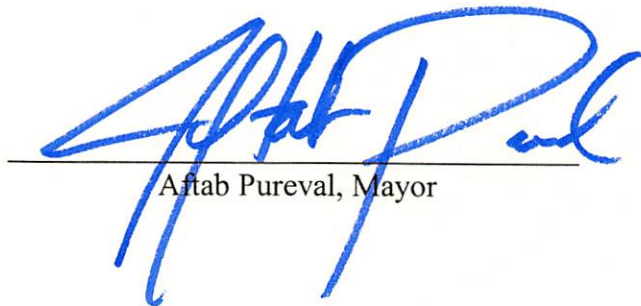
BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize Napoleon Maddox for his numerous contributions to the Cincinnati community.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to Napoleon Maddox through the office of Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney.

Passed: October 18, 2023

Attest: 
Clerk


Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney