

RESOLUTION NO. _____ – 2022

RECOGNIZING and expressing the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati to Mr. Mitch Morris during Black History Month 2022 for his contributions to prevention of gun violence in the City and for his tireless dedication to youth outreach through the Cincinnati Works Phoenix Program and other initiatives, especially benefitting the Black community.

WHEREAS, Mr. Morris is a lifelong resident of Cincinnati, Ohio and has been a passionate advocate for his neighborhood of Avondale; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morris began his outreach work by connecting individuals with felony convictions to employers known to hire individuals with criminal records; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morris began working with the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (“CIRV”) in approximately 2007 and connected with civic and business leaders for assistance; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2010 Mr. Morris volunteered in street-level outreach work with Cincinnati Works, and helped to launch the Phoenix Program, an initiative to end gun violence by providing a path out of the street life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morris represents Cincinnati Works on CIRV, previously represented the organization on the advisory board of the Child Poverty Collaborative, and works regularly with the Cincinnati Police Department, other CIRV agencies, and other local non-profits to host community events; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morris responds to shooting events, speaks with individuals at correctional centers, walks through high-crime neighborhoods to build relationships in the community, sponsors and attends community events, and works to mentor and empower young Black men through non-violent engagement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morris founded Save Our Youth Kings & Queens, a support group for local youth presently involved in street life, or at risk of becoming involved; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morris and the Phoenix Program continued to conduct outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw a rise in gun violence rates across the nation, and continued to walk vulnerable neighborhoods and offer alternatives for at-risk youth; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morris has shown tireless dedication to his mission, helping to connect with today’s youth and to reduce gun violence;

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

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize Mr. Mitch Morris for his contributions to prevention of gun violence in the City and for his tireless dedication to youth outreach through the Cincinnati Works Phoenix Program and other initiatives, especially benefiting the Black community.

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

Passed _____, 2022

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Meeka D. Owens