

EESW

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2025

RECOGNIZING Ibtisam Masto, the founder and owner of Olive Tree Catering LLC, as a 2025 Small Business Month honoree and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for Ms. Masto's culinary excellence, cultural contributions, and community impact throughout Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, Ibtisam Masto, a Syrian immigrant and proud resident of Cincinnati, is the founder and owner of Olive Tree Catering LLC ("Olive Tree"), a culinary business that brings the authentic flavors, traditions, and hospitality of the Levant to local events, pop-ups, and community spaces across Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Olive Tree was founded out of Ms. Masto's deep desire to preserve and share her cultural heritage through food, inspired by her hometown of Jisr al-Shughur in northwest Syria and by her personal journey of resilience, rebuilding, and hope; and

WHEREAS, Olive Tree specializes in traditional Syrian and Levantine dishes, including hummus with tahini, baba ghanoush topped with pomegranate, and hand-crafted baklava, which was awarded Second Place for Best Taste in Cincinnati during a community tasting event in May 2025; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Masto sources her olive oil directly from her hometown, symbolizing peace, endurance, and connection between past and present; and

WHEREAS, through her work, Ms. Masto not only nourishes her customers with food but also nurtures understanding and unity by offering a welcoming space for cultural exchange, storytelling, and human connection; and

WHEREAS, Olive Tree has grown to represent more than a catering company—it is a testament to the strength of immigrant entrepreneurship, the power of tradition, and the beauty of sharing one's heritage with a new home; 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 Ibtisam Masto, the founder and owner of Olive Tree Catering LLC, as a 2025 Small Business Month honoree for her culinary excellence, cultural contributions, and community impact throughout Cincinnati.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to Ibtisam Masto through the office of Councilmember Anna Albi.

Passed: _____, 2025

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Anna Albi