

RESOLUTION NO. 19 - 2026

RECOGNIZING Ruby Fredricka Shuttlesworth Bester and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for Mrs. Shuttlesworth Bester's lifelong legacy of civil rights advocacy and leadership.

WHEREAS, Ruby "Ricky" Fredricka Shuttlesworth Bester was born on January 7, 1945, in Mobile, Alabama, as the second daughter of Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Mrs. Ruby K. Shuttlesworth; and

WHEREAS, between the ages of eleven and sixteen, Mrs. Shuttlesworth Bester endured profound injustice during the Civil Rights Movement, including the bombing of her childhood home on Christmas night in 1953, violence against her family for efforts to desegregate Philips High School, and her arrest at age fifteen for sitting at the front of an interstate bus; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shuttlesworth Bester overcame these trials, graduating at the age of sixteen from A.H. Parker High School, and later earning her master's degree in special education from the University of Cincinnati, after which she served for thirty years as a special educator, including 27 years as a department head at Princeton Junior High School; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shuttlesworth Bester has traveled extensively to share her experiences in the Birmingham Civil Rights Movement and has spoken at universities including Miami University, Xavier University, and the University of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Shuttlesworth Bester has also served in faith-based leadership, including as President of the Cincinnati Missionary Baptist District Association Youth Department and as Greater New Light Baptist Church Youth Department Director; and

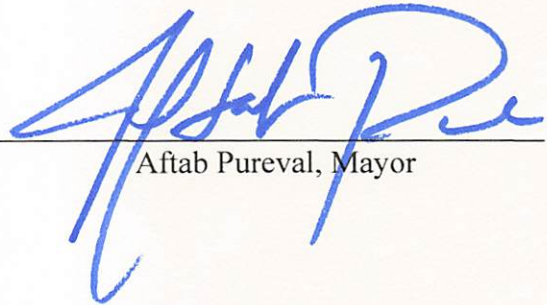
WHEREAS, Mrs. Shuttlesworth Bester is presently completing *Eighty-Nine Years: An Inclusive Look at American History... A Work in Progress* and remains forever grateful to the many unsung heroes who have supported her journey; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize Ruby "Ricky" Fredricka Shuttlesworth Bester for her lifelong legacy of civil rights advocacy and leadership.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to Mrs. Shuttlesworth Bester through the office of Councilmember Meeka Owens.

Passed: April 15, 2026


Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: 
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Meeka Owens