

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2023

RECOGNIZING Margo Spence as a 2023 Women's History Month honoree and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cincinnati for her leadership, guidance, and service to all of First Step Home's programs for the treatment of women with substance use disorders in Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, Margo Spence, MS, LSW, LICDC, was the President and CEO of First Step Home, Inc. for 21 years, and the visionary and leader in opening the newest program known as the Family Unity Center which offers prevention and education services for women and children, as well as a speech therapist and a child therapist which will soon be available to the Walnut Hills community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Spence was named President and CEO of Talbert House in 2001 after 14 years with the organization, during which time she served in several senior management positions, including as Director of Women's Treatment and Corrections where she managed three 20-bed halfway houses, and as Director of the Women's Treatment Minimum Security Jail Program; and

WHEREAS, at Talbert House, Ms. Spence oversees personnel who provide residential, outpatient, and Maternal Addiction Program services, directs community awareness functions, oversees fundraising and budgetary efforts, provides board leadership and relations and human resource oversight, and leads efforts to provide safe and sober housing for recovering women and their children up to the age of twelve for the Cincinnati campus of twelve buildings; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Spence has been a participant in presentations and panels nationwide, including "Equity in Women's Economic, Physical and Mental Health," at Woman's City Club in 2017, and she has held a variety of roles in state and local organizations including the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers, the Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition, the Hamilton County Corrections Planning Board, Recovery Link, and the Ohio Women's Network of Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Programs; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Spence served as chair of the Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services for the State of Ohio for then Governor Ted Strickland, is a Licensed Social Worker, a Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor, and has her MS degree from Xavier University and her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Spence is a dedicated member of our Cincinnati community, and is uniquely skilled in coordinating diversity events, experienced in facilitating workshops in strategic planning, self-esteem, and treatment planning for African American women, has provided consulting services to develop women-focused programming for a jail in Indiana through the National Institute of Corrections, is skilled in management of 24-hour halfway house operations

and minimum security jail programs, and was selected to present in London, England on the utilization of volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati is grateful for Ms. Spence’s ongoing efforts to serve our community members in need, with a special focus on women and children, and wishes Ms. Spence a happy, joyous, and much-deserved retirement; 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 Margo Spence as a 2023 Women’s History Month honoree for her outstanding support for our community, her legacy as a community service provider, and for her many contributions to the City of Cincinnati.

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

Passed: _____, 2023

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney