

AWB

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2022

**RECOGNIZING** Chris Seelbach as a 2022 City of Cincinnati Pride Month honoree and expressing the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for his visionary leadership, his tireless advocacy for advancing LGBTQIA+ justice, and for his ongoing dedication to striving toward equality for all persons.

WHEREAS, during his tenure on Cincinnati's City Council, Chris Seelbach served as President Pro Tem and chaired the Equity, Inclusion, Youth and Arts Committee, and under his leadership, Cincinnati became the first city nationwide to ban conversion therapy for minors and the third city to offer transgender-inclusive healthcare, making Cincinnati a nationwide model for other communities seeking to advance the equality of LGBTQIA+ persons; and

WHEREAS, as part of his visionary and progressive leadership, Chris Seelbach wrote and introduced legislation to offer equal partner health benefits to City employees for the first time in the City's history; and even prior to the *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) ruling, Chris Seelbach's forward-looking efforts advancing the rights of LGBTQIA+ City employees improved City policies, and included his work to add gender identity and expression to the City's non-discrimination policy and to strengthen local hate crime laws; and

WHEREAS, Chris Seelbach recognized the need for visibility and representation of LGBTQIA+ persons in our community and led the effort to raise the inclusive Pride flag at City Hall for the first time in the City's history, and because of his visionary leadership, the raising of the Pride flag has become a yearly tradition that continues to this day, and

WHEREAS, Chris Seelbach helped establish the first LGBTQ+ liaisons in the police and fire departments and the Mayor's office; and

WHEREAS, because of these combined efforts, President Barack Obama named Chris Seelbach Cincinnati's only White House Champion of Change for his commitment to equality and public service; and

WHEREAS, Chris Seelbach's tireless efforts to advance equity, justice, and dignity for all Cincinnatians continued with his work to ban "no knock" warrants in the City of Cincinnati, and his commitment to equity and inclusion was demonstrated by his legislation to add natural hair to the City's non-discrimination policy, and Chris Seelbach worked to ensure that the City of Cincinnati recognized the rights of all persons living in our community, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Chris Seelbach demonstrated his capacity to empathize, support, and lift up each and every person he encountered, and by bringing his unique abilities to City Hall as a legislator, Chris Seelbach approached each issue from a perspective of love and compassion,

leading to his many accomplishments on City Council and much-needed progressive legislation; 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 Chris Seelbach as a 2022 City of Cincinnati Pride Month honoree for his decades of leadership, his forward-looking work in the City of Cincinnati, and for his unwavering commitment to advancing justice and equality for all persons in our community.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and a copy be provided to Chris Seelbach through the office of Vice Mayor Kearney.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney and Councilmembers Reggie Harris and Meeka Owens