

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2023

RECOGNIZING Jeremy K. Smith as a 2023 City of Cincinnati Black History Month honoree and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cincinnati for his service to the Black community and decades of work broadening career opportunities for others in the City of Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, Jeremy K. Smith's mother Debra Zimmerman, who moved from Batavia to Avondale and then to Northside to support the family as they went through school, and his sister Alecia Spencer, who is the Vice President of Sales at Gannett, have played an integral role in shaping him into the man he is today; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith considers his two children, Ameer Smith and Harlem Smith, to be his greatest achievements; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith's involvement in the City's athletic community began with playing football for the Hilltop Hawks and continued at St. Xavier High School, where he played for their nationally ranked football team, and where he remains an active member of the St. Xavier community, helping to found their multicultural alumni group, The Healey Society; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith co-founded the Alpha Esquires Youth Program and is a member of several community organizations such as Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the Elisha Lodge 106, and the Cincinnati NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith partnered with Hoxworth Blood Center, The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to found an annual blood drive in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr, which is credited for saving over 20,000 lives; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Mr. Smith was named to the "Top 10 Under 30" list for the "Reaching for the Stars" award by *Applause Magazine*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was a member of the 2011 graduating class of the Marcus Graham project, which seeks to help place people of color in roles throughout the advertising industry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has spent his career employed in advertising, communications, and social media management, working with brands such as Coca-Cola, Jordan Brand, the Estate of Tupac Shakur, P&G, and Amazon; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the United Way appointed Mr. Smith to the "Champions of Change," which is designed to improve Black-led social change in Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has excelled in his chosen field of work and has blazed a trail for others to follow, expanding the path that he made to provide opportunities for people of color in all spaces, whether they be academic, business, or personal; 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 Jeremy K. Smith for his involvement with the professional development of young people and his commitment to expanding pathways into careers in business, especially in Cincinnati's Black community.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to Mr. Smith through the office of Councilmember Reggie Harris.

Passed: _____, 2023

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Reggie Harris