

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2021

EXPRESSING the support of the Mayor and City Council for the current design of the Gateway to Freedom Park to be constructed on Lot 18 at the development known as the Banks.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. 369-2021, passed by Council on September 22, 2021, Council appropriated \$1,000,000 in funding for the design and construction of improvements for a park to be constructed on Lot 18 of the Banks ("Lot 18"), near the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (the "Freedom Center"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the existing agreements between the City and the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio (the "County"), the County is to convey Lot 18 to the City, upon the City's request, for park purposes; and

WHEREAS, a group of stakeholders including representatives from the Freedom Center, the Cincinnati Reds, and the City collaborated to create an initial design of a park on Lot 18 known as the Gateway to Freedom Park to (i) commemorate historic and modern-day African American freedom seekers; (ii) recognize the significance of the City's strategic location on the banks of the Ohio River; (iii) inspire visitors to become more informed and personally motivated to advance the causes of freedom, justice, and equity; and (iv) extend the embodiment of the Freedom Center beyond its building and better connect it to the Banks development, as depicted in the designs in Attachment A hereto (the "Gateway to Freedom Park"); and

WHEREAS, the Gateway to Freedom Park will include an exhibit attesting to the work of the Ohio Innocence Project; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council hereby encourage the Banks stakeholders, including the Cincinnati Reds, Freedom Center, and the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners, to collaborate to implement the vision of the Gateway to Freedom Park; 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 express their support for the development of Lot 18 at the development known as the Banks into the Gateway to Freedom Park, as depicted on Attachment A, which development shall include an exhibit attesting to the work of the Ohio Innocence Project.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: _____, 2021

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk