

EESW

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2023

RECOGNIZING February 7, 2023 as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) was first observed in 1999 and is a grassroots education effort to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS prevention and medical treatment in Black/African American communities; and

WHEREAS, an estimated forty million people worldwide have died of AIDS since 1981, and an estimated 37 million are living with HIV (the virus that causes AIDS), making it one of the most important global public health issues in recorded history; and

WHEREAS, Black communities have made great progress in reducing HIV infections, yet racism, discrimination, and mistrust in the health care system may affect whether Black people seek or receive HIV prevention services, and these issues also reduce the likelihood of engaging in HIV treatment and care; and

WHEREAS, HIV disproportionately affects Black/African American communities; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports that in 2019, 41 percent of the estimated 34,800 people with new HIV infections in the United States were Blacks/African Americans, while in the 2020 census, Blacks/African Americans comprised 12.4 percent of all people living in the United States; additionally, these disparities are also reflected in the rates of HIV in the general population, where in 2019, forty percent of all people living with HIV were Black/African American; and

WHEREAS, due to the impact HIV has on the Greater Cincinnati area, Hamilton County is currently funded by the federal government to bring HIV infections down to fewer than twenty new cases a year by 2030, and many great local organizations are working together to see the end of HIV as a public health crisis in Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, Equitas Health's mission is to be the gateway to good health for those at risk of or affected by HIV; for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) community; and for those seeking a welcoming healthcare home; and

WHEREAS, Ending HIV in Black Communities is a call to action being hosted by Equitas Health in Cincinnati, and this event will provide health services as well as an opportunity to join the conversation with local health experts, community members, and the founder of the Black Aids Institute, Phil Wilson; 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 February 7, 2023 as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

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

Passed: _____, 2023

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Reggie Harris