

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2021**

**RECOGNIZING** and expressing the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati to Dr. O'dell Moreno Owens during Black History Month 2021 for his leadership and work in public health issues and his years of public service to the citizens of the City of Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, Dr. O'dell Moreno Owens, a longtime public health leader in Cincinnati, is the President, Chief Executive Officer and a board member of Interact for Health and InterAct for Change, having joined Interact as the organization's president in October 2016; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens holds both an MD and a master's of public health from Yale University Medical School, where he also completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens completed a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology at Harvard Medical School and served as a clinical instructor in reproductive endocrinology, and after returning to his native Cincinnati in 1982, established an in vitro fertilization program at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and achieved Cincinnati's first successful conception and delivery as well as the first pregnancy from a frozen embryo; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Dr. Owens has served as the Hamilton County Coroner, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College President, Medical Director/Interim Health Commissioner of the Cincinnati Health Department, and as a trusted advisor to Ohio Governor Mike DeWine guiding the State of Ohio's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens currently serves on the board of the Cincinnati Fire Foundation, the Carl H. Lindner Jr. Family Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) at the Cincinnati Zoo, and the Cincinnati Preschool Promise; and is the longest-tenured member and former lead director of the U.S. Bancorp Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, for eight years, Dr. Owens has chaired the annual CET Action Auction, which supports Cincinnati's public television programming; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens previously served as Chair of the boards of the University of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Board of Health and has served on the boards of the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, the Cincinnati Red Cross, the Fine Arts Fund (now ArtsWave), and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Owens and other Black public health leaders in the Cincinnati area worked together to fight vaccine misinformation in the city's Black community and to keep a spotlight on racial disparities in vaccination rates; and

WHEREAS, Interact for Health under Dr. Owens' leadership has played an instrumental role in supporting healthcare in Greater Cincinnati by investing in grants, research and policy, and leading a dedicated and talented staff that has made a lasting impact on our region's public health; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Owens was recognized in 2020 as a "Great Living Cincinnati" by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber and announced his retirement from Interact for Health in February 2021; now, therefore.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. The Mayor and this Council hereby recognize Dr. O'dell Owens, M.D. as a 2021 City of Cincinnati Black History Month honoree for his positive impact on the City of Cincinnati and his leadership in advancing and protecting public health through policy, research, scholarship, advocacy, and philanthropy.

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

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Cranley, Mayor

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

Submitted by Councilmember Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney