

EMERGENCY

City of Cincinnati

KKF

BWL

An Ordinance No. _____

- 2021

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to accept in-kind donation of a Pan African flag from RoSho Awards and Graphics in order to fly it from the flagpole at City Hall during the month of February as a recognition of Black History Month.

WHEREAS, Carter G. Woodson, noted Black Scholar and historian, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, and initiated Black History Week on February 12, 1926, chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded to become Black History Month in honor of the shared heritage of its African American citizens and in order to better conserve, preserve, and perpetuate African American history and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Pan African flag has been a symbol of solidarity, liberation, and respect and has represented pride and unity since 1920 when the Honorable Marcus Garvey of the United Negro Improvement Association created the flag; and

WHEREAS, the City Administration intends to fly a Pan African flag from the flagpole at City Hall during the month of February in recognition of Black History Month, and RoSho Awards and Graphics has offered to donate the flag to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati desires to express its support for Black History Month in solidarity with its Black residents; and

WHEREAS, the value of the flag is less than \$150; and

WHEREAS, the City's installation and maintenance of the Pan African flag is the City's own expression, constitutes government speech, and does not signify the City's intent to create a free speech forum; and

WHEREAS, there are no new FTEs associated with this donation, and acceptance of this donation does not require any local matching resources; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That City Council hereby declares it is a matter of great public interest to celebrate Black History Month in the City of Cincinnati in honor of the shared heritage of its African American citizens and in order to better conserve, preserve, and perpetuate African

American history and culture, including through accepting the donation of and flying the Pan African flag during the month of February.

Section 2. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to accept a donation of a Pan African flag, and subsequent similar replacement flags, from RoSho Awards and Graphics valued at less than \$150 each, and to display the flag in celebration of Black History Month.

Section 3. That the City's installation and maintenance of the Pan African flag is the City's own expression, constitutes government speech, and does not signify the City's intent to create a free speech forum.

Section 4. That the proper City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and proper to carry out the terms of Sections 1 through 3 hereof.

Section 5. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept the donation in time to fly a Pan African flag during the month of February.

Passed: _____, 2021

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk