

RESOLUTION NO. _____ – 2021

RECOGNIZING and honoring Judge Marilyn Zayas for her judicial integrity and impactful outreach with young students as part of the City of Cincinnati's recognition of Women's History Month 2021 during which the City celebrates women who are making history today while bringing national attention to Cincinnati and serving our community.

WHEREAS, March is Women's History Month and includes International Women's Day, celebrating the achievements of women who have improved our communities, our city, our nation, and our world; and

WHEREAS, Judge Zayas is a New York City native with parents from Puerto Rico, and she began her educational career at City College of New York where she obtained a degree in computer science; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from college, Judge Zayas moved to Cincinnati in 1988 to work for Procter & Gamble before attending the University of Cincinnati College of Law where she earned her juris doctorate in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Judge Zayas has an extensive legal background, including working for Holland & Hart LLP and launching a private practice where she practiced intellectual property, employment, juvenile, and family law; and

WHEREAS, Judge Zayas has strived for the legal system to be equitable for people regardless of birthplace and has worked with law enforcement agencies to ensure that foreign-born crime victims are able to safely report crimes and participate in the judicial system; and

WHEREAS, Judge Zayas was elected and re-elected to the First Appellate District in 2016 and 2018, respectively, and was selected by the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court to join the Supreme Court in a June 2018 case, and by holding these positions became the first Latina elected as an appellate judge in Ohio and to sit on the Ohio Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, understanding the importance of youth empowerment and the barriers that exist in entering the legal field, Judge Zayas founded the program for high school students, "Educating Tomorrow's Leaders," which exposes students to the legal field; and

WHEREAS, Judge Zayas started a program to connect Black, Latinx, and other law students with Black and Latinx judges to show students the possibilities before them and to mentor and encourage them in their legal careers; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Mayor and Council hereby recognize Judge Marilyn Zayas as a 2021 City of Cincinnati Women's History Month honoree for her trailblazing legal career and youth outreach.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to Judge Zayas through the office of Councilmember Kearney.

Passed _____, 2021

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmembers Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, Betsy Sundermann, and Liz Keating