

Proposed: 09/06/2022

RESOLUTION NO. 134-2022 (CRR), *First Reading*

By Mayor Seren

A Resolution declaring September 19, 2022 to be Heights Community Congress Day; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, prominent Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant religious leaders from Cleveland Heights began meeting at the Carmelite Monastery on Lee to discuss how to promote interracial harmony; and,

WHEREAS, in 1972, the St. Ann Social Action Housing Committee released an audit demonstrating clear racial bias and discriminatory practices among real estate companies working in Cleveland Heights; and,

WHEREAS, in late 1972, the interfaith Carmelite Group formed the Heights Community Congress (HCC), which took on the task of continuing the St. Ann Housing Committee's audit work; and,

WHEREAS, in 1974, HCC launched the Heights Housing Service, a program funded by the City of Cleveland Heights to promote open housing throughout the city; and,

WHEREAS, in 1976, the City of Cleveland Heights passed its Nine-Point Plan establishing anti-discrimination real estate practices and took over Heights Housing Services; and,

WHEREAS, HCC adopted a broader mission focused on an open, balanced housing market, integrated schools, grassroots problem-solving, and programs and services responsive to the needs of a diverse population; and,

WHEREAS, HCC mobilized a coalition of two hundred organizations and more than 1,000 volunteers; and,

WHEREAS, HCC helped start neighborhood association across Cleveland Heights and launched the Heights Heritage Home and Garden tour to help showcase the value of Heights homes and the vibrant quality of life in an integrated community; and,

WHEREAS, HCC, with the City of Cleveland Heights as its co-plaintiff, successfully sued Hilltop Realty in 1983 for violating the federal Fair Housing Act, thereby setting new standards for non-discriminatory treatment of prospective homeowners; and,

WHEREAS, HCC helped examine the lending patterns of banks and mortgage companies in the 1990s through the Countywide Financial Institutions Advisory Committee; and,

WHEREAS, in 2017, HCC's criticism of Zillow.com prompted the site to remove its color-coded, discriminatory ratings of schools and school districts from its online real estate listings; and,

WHEREAS, in 2021, HCC participated in the City of Cleveland Heights' efforts to grant "source of income" protected status and to outlaw discrimination based on the kind of income used to pay rent; and,

WHEREAS, for fifty years, HCC has held a mirror up to Cleveland Heights, asking if we liked what we saw and challenging us to do better; and,


WHEREAS, on Sunday, September 18, 2022, HCC will hold the 43rd Heights Heritage Home and Garden tour.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. September 18, 2022 is hereby designated Heights Community Congress Day in the City of Cleveland Heights, in recognition of and deep appreciation for the irreplaceable role HCC has played in making Cleveland Heights a city where "All Are Welcome" by battling discrimination in housing and real estate practices, promoting racial harmony and integrated schools, and engaging in other efforts to combat discrimination and racism and promote diversity.

SECTION 2. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 3. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety of the City, such emergency being the need to recognize Heights Community Congress Day in a timely fashion. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Melody Joy Hart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M".

MELODY JOY HART
President of Council



ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED: 09/06/2022

Presented to Mayor: 09/07/2022

Approved: 09/09/2022



KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor