

RESOLUTION NO. 055-2023 (PD), *First Reading*

By Mayor Seren

A Resolution declaring May 2023 National Preservation Month; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride, and maintaining community character while enhancing livability; and

WHEREAS, historic preservation is relevant for communities across the nation, both urban and rural, and for Americans of all ages, all walks of life, and all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, it is important to celebrate the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals in helping to preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as a people; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights has 16 historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, in past years City staff has been involved in a wide variety of projects that help the City preserve and promote its historic resources including helping residents research their homes' histories; entering original building permit data into a database; providing on-site rehabilitation advice on topics such as paint color selection, paint removal, and window repair; sponsoring lectures to educate people about architecture, preservation, and Cleveland Heights history; assisting residents in researching and listing neighborhoods to the National Register of Historic Places and installing signs recognizing this designation; and funding improvements through the City's Storefront Renovation Program; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Heights has shown a continued dedication to promoting the City's history, architecture, and historic preservation through partnerships with the Cleveland Restoration Society to administer the Heritage Home Loan Program, a program that allows owners of older homes access to low-interest loans and the technical assistance necessary to sensitively rehabilitate their older homes; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2019, City Council adopted comprehensive amendments to the City's Landmark Commission ordinance to protect and enhance the historic and aesthetic qualities of the City for the enjoyment of the City's residents and visitors alike, and to further preservation goals by enabling the Landmark Commission to safeguard locally designated properties, protect properties as they go through the Landmark designation process, designate local historic districts where more than 50% of property owners consent, and protect designated properties from inappropriate alterations or demolition; and

WHEREAS, in March, 2019, the City of Cleveland Heights was designated a Certified Local Government ("CLG") by the United States Department of the Interior; and

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WHEREAS, as a result of obtaining CLG status, the City of Cleveland Heights applied for and was awarded in 2019 a grant from the State of Ohio to prepare Historic Preservation Design Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights Adopted those Historic Preservation Design Guidelines on October 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS Cleveland Heights operates the Cleveland Heights Historical Center at Superior Schoolhouse, which draws visitors and students for tours and research; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights has been hosting events to celebrate National Preservation Month since 2002; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights desires to co-sponsor National Preservation Month 2023 with the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and

WHEREAS, in Cleveland Heights, National Preservation Month 2023 will be observed through the following three (3) events sponsored by the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, Cleveland Heights Historical Society, Heights Libraries, and Cleveland Restoration Society.

May 1, 7 pm: Cleveland Civil Rights Trail

Speaker: Aaron Fountain, Jr., PhD, African American Cultural Heritage Specialist, Cleveland Restoration Society

Location: Lee Road Library

May 25, 7 pm: From Dazzle to Doom: The Story of the Forest Hill Mansion from a Water Cure Hospital to J.D. Rockefeller's beloved Family Home

Speaker: Korbi Roberts, Cleveland Heights Historical Society Trustee

Location: Lee Road Library

June 7, 7 pm: Fairhill Road Village - A Unique Planned Community

Speaker: Robert Vroman

Location: Lee Road Library

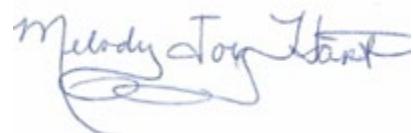
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council does hereby proclaim May 2023 National Preservation Month and calls upon the residents of the City of Cleveland Heights to join their fellow residents across the United States in recognizing and participating in this special observance.

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

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SECTION 3. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to join with the other communities in this celebration and the need to proclaim National Preservation Month on a timely basis. 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.



MELODY JOY HART
President of the Council



ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED: 4/3/2023

Presented to Mayor: 4/4/2023

Approved by Mayor: 4/10/2023



KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor