

RESOLUTION NO. 016-2025(CRR), *First Reading*

By All City Council Members

A Resolution recognizing February 1, 2025 as *National Freedom Day*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, thanks to the decades-long push of Richard R. Wright, a former slave and a significant leader in the African American community, *National Freedom Day* was created pursuant to a joint resolution approved June 30, 1948, in which Congress authorized the President to proclaim the first day of February each year as such; and

WHEREAS, *National Freedom Day* commemorates the abolition of slavery and President Abraham Lincoln's signing of a joint resolution in 1865 which established the Constitution's 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth Amendment is a cornerstone in the foundation of our American traditions and is a landmark in the nation's effort to fulfill the principles of freedom and justice proclaimed in the first ten amendments to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, *National Freedom Day* is a time to reflect on the victories and accomplishments of African Americans throughout our country's history and to recognize their numerous valuable contributions to the protection of our democratic society; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights wholeheartedly supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948, which declares that "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world."

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

SECTION 1. This Council hereby proclaims February 1, 2025 as *National Freedom Day* in the City of Cleveland Heights in order to recognize and celebrate the nation's efforts to fulfill the principles of freedom and justice.

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

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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 recognize *National Freedom Day* 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.



TONY CUDA
President of Council



ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED: January 21, 2025

Presented to Mayor: 01/23/2025

Approved: 01/31/2025



KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor