

RESOLUTION NO. 225-2024(CRR), *First Reading*

By Mayor Seren

A Resolution recognizing November 20, 2024, as *Transgender Day of Remembrance* in the City of Cleveland Heights; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights recognizes the right of transgender people to live authentically and openly without the fear of discrimination or violence; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights remembers the names of the transgender people whose lives we know have been taken due to anti-transgender violence in 2023—though these crimes are often misreported, go underreported, or are not reported at all:

- **Kassim Omar**, a 29-year-old Black transgender woman who fled to the United States in 2015 as a refugee from Somalia to escape anti-LGBTQIA+ harassment and violence. She was paralyzed after being shot in 2022 in her apartment in Columbus, Ohio, and ultimately passed away on September 6, 2024.
- **Redd aka Barbie**, a 25-year-old Black transgender woman who was killed on September 8, 2024, in Chicago, Illinois.
- **Vanity Williams**, a 34-year-old Black transgender woman and Air Force veteran who was killed on August 3, 2024, in Houston, Texas.
- **Tai’Vion Lathan**, a 24-year-old Black transgender woman killed on August 4, 2024, in East Baltimore, Maryland.
- **Dylan Gurley**, a 20-year-old transgender woman killed on July 23, 2024, in Denton, Texas.
- **Monique Brooks**, a 49-year-old Black transgender woman killed on July 19, 2024, in Orlando, Florida.
- **Kenji Spurgeon**, a 23-year-old Black transgender woman killed on July 1, 2024, in Seattle, Washington.
- **Shannon Boswell**, a 30-year-old Black transgender woman killed on July 2, 2024, in Atlanta, Georgia.
- **Kassim Omar**, a 29-year-old Black trans woman who fled to the United States in 2015 as a refugee from Somalia to escape anti-LGBTQIA+ harassment and violence.
- **Pauly Liken**, a 14-year-old transgender girl who went missing from a park in Morristown, New Jersey, and was later found dead in Sharon, Pennsylvania.
- **Liara Tsai**, a 35-year-old transgender woman killed on June 22, 2024, in Iowa.

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- **Jazlynn Johnson**, an 18-year-old transgender woman killed on May 6, 2024, in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- **Yella Clark Jr.**, a 45-year-old Black transgender person who was killed while serving a life sentence at Angola prison in Louisiana on April 2, 2024.
- **Michelle Henry**, a 25-year-old Black transgender woman killed on May 15, 2024, in San Francisco, California.
- **Brandon “Tayy Dior” Thomas**, a 17-year-old Black transgender girl killed on May 7, 2024, in Mobile, Alabama.
- **Reyna Hernandez**, a 54-year-old Latina transgender woman killed on February 26, 2024, in Renton, Washington.
- **Kita Bee**, a 46-year-old Black transgender woman killed on May 3, 2024, in Kansas City, Missouri.
- **Starr Brown**, a Black transgender woman killed on April 19, 2024, in Memphis, Tennessee.
- **Sasha Williams**, a 36-year-old transgender woman killed on January 26, 2024, in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- **Andrea Doria Dos Passos**, a transgender woman killed on April 23, 2024, in Miami, Florida.
- **River Nevaeh Goddard**, a 17-year-old non-binary person killed on April 5, 2024, in Stow, Massachusetts.
- **Tee “Legend Billions” Arnold**, a 36-year-old Black transgender man killed on April 3, 2024, in Hallandale Beach, Florida.
- **Africa Parrilla Garcia**, a 25-year-old transgender woman killed on February 2, 2024, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- **Meraxes Medina**, a 24-year-old Latina transgender woman killed on March 21, 2024, in Los Angeles, California.
- **Alex Taylor Franco**, a 21-year-old transgender man killed on March 17, 2024, in Taylorsville, Utah.
- **Diamond Brigman**, a 26-year-old Black transgender woman killed on March 16, 2024, in Houston, Texas.
- **Righteous TK “Chevy” Hill**, a 35-year-old Black transgender man killed on February 28, 2024, in East Point, Georgia.
- **Kitty Monroe**, a 43-year-old Latine transgender person killed on January 1, 2024, in Phoenix, Arizona.

WHEREAS, bias, violence, and systemic oppression against transgender people remain unacceptably prevalent; and

WHEREAS, incarceration, homelessness, poverty, and addiction have a disproportionate impact on transgender individuals, particularly transgender women of color, and persistently result in the loss of lives; and

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WHEREAS, violence against transgender people is fostered by the unprecedented wave of laws across the country that discriminate against, stigmatize, and criminalize transgender people, accompanied by ever-increasing hateful rhetoric against the transgender community; and

WHEREAS, transgender people and their allies are pushing back against such discriminatory laws, transphobic rhetoric, and hate violence; and

WHEREAS, transgender people have the same human rights as all people to live free from violence and discrimination, pursuing a life of joy, dignity, and aspirations for a future with respect and love as any other person;

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights commemorates *Transgender Day of Remembrance* and joins with communities and organizations here and around the world to observe *Transgender Day of Remembrance* on November 20, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO, THAT:

SECTION 1. This Council does hereby recognize November 20, 2024, as *Transgender Day of Remembrance* in Cleveland Heights.

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, or by posting the full text of this Resolution on the City of Cleveland Heights website.

SECTION 3. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure 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 other communities in recognizing *Transgender Day of Remembrance* 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

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ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED: November 18, 2024

Presented to Mayor: 11/19/2024 Approved: 11/20/2024



KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor