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RESOLUTION NO. 6 - 2016

RECOGNIZING the entrepreneurial and philanthropic contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Schuyler and Merri Gaither Smith to the City of Cincinnati community, and expressing Council's deep appreciation for Mr. Smith as the owner for sixty years of the largest minority-owned wrecking company in the Midwest and for Mrs. Smith's contributions in academics in Cincinnati Public Schools and through cultural enrichment activities for the benefit of area youth.

WHEREAS, Schuyler Smith began his career operating a dry cleaning business, started Acme Wrecking Company after recognizing the potential profitability in that field, and grew the business, eventually acquiring the property where his company operated at a time when many local banks refused to offer financing to African Americans and expanding to additional property as his fleet expanded; and

WHEREAS, Acme Wrecking went on to perform many large site clearing projects over the years including Procter & Gamble's headquarters, the University of Cincinnati Vontz Center, the expansion of the Cincinnati Convention Center, and Rookwood Shopping Center; and

WHEREAS, Schuyler Smith trained many African Americans to operate heavy equipment and employed hundreds of truck drivers and equipment operators, many of whom were excluded from unions because of their race, and he served as a charter member and the first African-American director of the National Association of Demolition Contractors; and

WHEREAS, Merri Gaither Smith served Cincinnati Public Schools for thirty-one years as an elementary school teacher, an administrator, and then as executive assistant to former Superintendent Lee Etta Powell, and she co-founded the Women's Alliance in 1966 and Advocates for Youth Education in 1988 to provide cultural and academic enrichment opportunities for disadvantaged youth in Cincinnati, positively impacting young people inside and outside the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Schuyler and Merri Gaither Smith, longtime O'Bryonville residents, have also touched the lives of local citizens through their support of Lighthouse Youth Services, 4C for Children, YWCA, and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; and

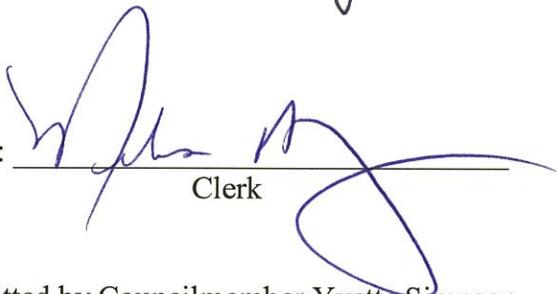
WHEREAS, together Mr. and Mrs. Smith have received numerous awards including the Lions Award from the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio and membership in the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame; Mr. Smith was inducted into the Black Business Hall of Fame by the Greater Cincinnati African-American Chamber of Commerce and received the prestigious Spirit of Construction Award for his lifetime achievements in construction; and Mrs. Smith was named among the Women of the Year by the Cincinnati Enquirer and the Women of Distinction by the Great Rivers Girl Scout Council; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council recognize the lifelong contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Schuyler and Merri Gaither Smith and express their sincere appreciation for them as pioneers in entrepreneurship and philanthropy in Cincinnati and the region.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and copies be sent to Schuyler and Merri Gaither Smith of Cincinnati through the office of Councilmember Yvette Simpson.

Passed: February 10, 2016

Attest: 
Clerk


Mayor

Submitted by Councilmember Yvette Simpson