

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2020-0028

Sponsored by: Councilmember Brown	A Resolution appointing Honey Bell-Bey as Poet Laureate for Cuyahoga County, and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, poetry provides an expansive understanding of the world we live in. Through poetry, we can more clearly see where we stand, and vividly imagine how we want to shape our society. Art expands our possibilities, and the incorporation of poetry in public life allows for more creative and visionary collective governance; and

WHEREAS, a county poet laureate is a poet officially appointed by county leadership to compose poems for special events and occasions. The poet laureate also implements poetry events and hosts poetry competitions for children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Poet Laureate will serve to build awareness and appreciation of poetry – including the county’s legacy of poetry – through public readings, workshops, lectures and presentations in communities, schools, universities and other public settings. The poet laureate is a volunteer position that will represent the county at functions through positive selections written to celebrate the County and its residents; and

WHEREAS, Honey Bell-Bey has a passion to use poetry to give voice to issues that challenge, confront and change community. She has used this passion for the past twenty consecutive years with youth and communities impacted by adverse situations such as poverty and crime. Honey Bell-Bey created the character based, performance arts troupe for adolescent males ages twelve to twenty-one, named The Distinguished Gentlemen of Spoken Word; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Daniel Thompson was appointed as the first Cuyahoga County Poet Laureate. In honor of National Poetry Month in April, Cuyahoga County appoints its second poet laureate, Honey Bell-Bey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby appoints Honey Bell-Bey as Poet Laureate for Cuyahoga County.

SECTION 2. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health, or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members of Council, this Resolution shall become immediately effective.

SECTION 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.


On a motion by Ms. Brown, seconded by Ms. Conwell, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas: Tuma, Gallagher, Schron, Conwell, Jones, Brown, Stephens, Simon, Baker, Miller and Brady

Nays: None


County Council President

1-29-20
Date


County Executive

1-29-20
Date


Clerk of Council

1/28/2020
Date

Journal CC037
January 28, 2020

STATE OF OHIO)

) SS: OATH OF OFFICE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY)

Before me, GAYLE F. WILLIAMS-BYERS, JUDGE OF THE SOUTH EUCLID MUNICIPAL COURT, appeared HONEY BELL BEY, was appointed as the POET LAURETE, CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO, to execute the following oath of office for the full term commencing January 1, 2020:

“I, HONEY BELL BEY, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio; and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge my duties as POET LAURETE for CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO, using my abilities to unite, highlight and educate through the power of words, to the best of my ability and in accordance with the laws now in effect and hereafter to be enacted, during my continuance in said office, and until my successor is duly appointed and qualified. So help me God”

Honey Bell Bey 1/28/20
Signed Name Date

Honey Bell Bey 1/28/20
Printed Name Date

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY:

The foregoing Oath of Office was SWORN TO BEFORE ME by the said

Honey Bell Bey, and by him subscribed in my presence this 28th day of January, 2020.

Gayle F. Williams-Byers
Gayle F. Williams-Byers
Administrative and Presiding Judge
South Euclid Municipal Court