

# County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

## Resolution No. R2020-0028

Sponsored by: <b>Councilmember Brown</b>	<b>A Resolution</b> 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.

