

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2021-0041

<p>Sponsored by: Councilmembers Gallagher, Conwell and Stephens</p> <p>Co-sponsored by: Councilmembers Jones, Simon, Miller and Baker</p>	<p>A Resolution awarding a sum, not to exceed \$70,000.00, to the Italian American Brotherhood Club, a non-profit entity, to create, place, and maintain a sculpture of Cleveland Indians icon Rocco (“Rocky”) Domenico Colavito, Jr. to be erected in the Tony Brush Park in Little Italy, in the City of Cleveland, and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.</p>
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WHEREAS, Rocky Colavito was born in Bronx, New York in 1933, and left school at the age of 16 to pursue a career as a major league baseball player. Colavito made his major league debut with the Cleveland Indians in September of 1955, and immediately became a favorite of the Cleveland fans; and

WHEREAS, Colavito quickly proved himself as a big leaguer player, excelling as a prolific home run hitter, as well as one of the best outfielders in the American League. Career highlights include:

- 9 All-Star game appearances;
- Led the American League in Home Runs (1959);
- Led the American League in RBI’s (1965);
- First outfielder to play an entire season without making an error (1965);
- Lifetime .266 Batting Average;
- 374 Career Home Runs;
- Named to Cleveland Indians All-Century Team (2001);
- Inducted into the Indians Hall of Fame (2006);

WHEREAS, while Colavito’s athletic prowess is well documented, he was also revered throughout the Cleveland area for his kind heart and community spirit. He was always accommodating to the fans, and regularly spent hours signing autographs for his many fans; and

WHEREAS, despite being the subject of the most maligned trade in Cleveland sports history, Colavito remained a fan favorite to Clevelanders, and maintained his connections to the local community after ending his playing career, serving as both a coach and broadcaster for the Cleveland Indians; and

WHEREAS, to legions of residents, Colavito is both a hero and role model and local leaders have coalesced to honor him for his athletic accomplishments and his commitment to the Cleveland area;

WHEREAS, the Italian American-Brotherhood, a local non-profit entity, has led the drive to properly honor Colavito, and has engaged local sculptor David Deming to create a fitting statue of Colavito to be placed at Tony Brush Park in the Little Italy neighborhood in the City of Cleveland, and

WHEREAS, memorializing Rocky Colavito, for his remarkable accomplishments and dedication to this community will benefit Cuyahoga County and will serve as a lasting memory of a great man and great athlete who called Cleveland his home, and Cuyahoga County is supportive of providing funding for this effort; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that the Italian American-Brotherhood Club may undertake all efforts to create, place, and maintain a sculpture of Rocky Colavito.

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

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a sum, not to exceed \$70,000.00 to the Italian American-Brotherhood Club to create, place, and maintain a sculpture of Cleveland icon Rocky Colavito.

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 at least eight members of Council, this Resolution shall become immediately effective.

SECTION 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and 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 Mr. Gallagher, seconded by Ms. Conwell, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

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

Nays: None

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: February 9, 2021

Committee(s) Assigned: Community Development

Additional Sponsorship Requested: February 18, 2021

Committee Report/Second Reading: February 23, 2021

[Clerk's Note: Electronic signatures affixed in accordance with Cuyahoga County Code Chapter 110]

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February 23, 2021