

EESW

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2024

RECOGNIZING May 11th as World Keffiyeh Day.

WHEREAS, the keffiyeh is a traditional headdress worn by people in various parts of the Middle East, including Palestine, as a symbol of cultural identity, heritage, and solidarity and is distinguished by its notable features including bold black lines on the edges symbolizing the historical trade routes, a fishnet-like pattern representing the Palestinians' ties to the sea, and olive leaves woven into the design signifying the economic and cultural significance of olive trees; and

WHEREAS, the keffiyeh holds deep historical and cultural significance for the Palestinian people, representing resilience, resistance, and connection to the land; and

WHEREAS, World Keffiyeh Day is celebrated annually on May 11th in solidarity with Palestine, serving as an occasion to honor Palestinian culture and heritage and to raise awareness about the ongoing occupation faced by Palestinians; and

WHEREAS, the keffiyeh has unfortunately been misappropriated and misrepresented in Western media and popular culture, where it is often associated with terrorism or hate, perpetuating harmful stereotypes and biases; and

WHEREAS, the City condemns the attacks on individuals for wearing keffiyehs across the country, including but not limited to, the gun violence inflicted on three college students in Vermont, recognizing that such acts of violence are unacceptable and violate the principles of diversity, inclusion, and respect for human rights; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to recognize and honor the cultural significance of the keffiyeh, while condemning its wrongful association with terrorism or hate; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize May 11th as World Keffiyeh Day.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and a copy be provided to Mike Madanat through the office of Councilmember Scotty Johnson.

Passed: _____, 2024

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Scotty Johnson