

Resolution No. 736-2025

By Mayor Bibb

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Declaring June 30, 2025, as Carl B. Stokes Day in the City of Cleveland and thereafter on June 30th annually.

FOR ADOPTION
JUNE 2, 2025

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2025, Cleveland City Council and the City of Cleveland will honor the life and legacy of Carl B. Stokes, the 51st Mayor of Cleveland and the first Black mayor of a major American city, whose trailblazing leadership and lifelong dedication to public service continue to inspire generations; and

WHEREAS, Carl B. Stokes was elected Mayor of the City of Cleveland in 1967, breaking barriers in American politics and setting a national precedent for Black political leadership during the height of the “Civil Rights Movement;” and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Mayor (1967–1971), Carl B. Stokes implemented innovative urban policies focused on economic equity, housing reform, environmental justice, and police accountability, while working to bridge the racial and economic divides that shaped the City of Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, one of the landmark initiatives of Mayor Carl B. Stokes was the Cleveland: NOW! campaign, which aimed to revitalize inner-city neighborhoods and direct public and private investment into underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, beyond his accomplishments in Cleveland, Carl B. Stokes went on to serve as a municipal judge, a television news anchor, and as the United States Ambassador to Seychelles, continuing his legacy of service and advocacy on a national and international level; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of Carl B. Stokes have been recognized and remembered through the naming of civic institutions in his honor, including the Carl B. Stokes Federal Court House and the Stokes Wing of Cleveland Public Library, which he shares with his brother, Congressman Louis Stokes; and

WHEREAS, Carl B. Stokes remains a symbol of progress, resilience, and principled leadership, and his impact on City of Cleveland’s history is profound and enduring; and

WHEREAS, this Council celebrates the extraordinary legacy of Carl B. Stokes by declaring June 30th, the date of his historic mayoral inauguration in 1967, as Carl B. Stokes Day in the City of Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That, beginning this year, this Council declares June 30th as Carl B. Stokes Day annually in the City of Cleveland.

Section 2. That this resolution is declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

FH:fh
6-2-2025
FOR: Mayor Justin Bibb

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REPORT
after second Reading

By Mayor Bibb

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READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME

and referred to

REPORTS

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on JUNE 2, 2025

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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