Resolution No. 436-2025

By Council Members Kazy, Howse-Jones and Santana

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Adopting the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights to declare the City of Cleveland's commitment to providing access to parks and green spaces and a wide variety of quality outdoor opportunities for every Cleveland child.

WHEREAS, studies show that children who learn and play in nature are healthier, happier, and perform better in school; and

WHEREAS, children who have safe access to parks, zoos, nature centers, lakes and rivers, and other public outdoor areas are more resilient, more confident, more creative, and better problem solvers; and

WHEREAS, children who develop a positive relationship with nature are more likely to become tomorrow's caretakers of our natural heritage; and

WHEREAS, children and families will have access to Cleveland's parks, pools, trails, playgrounds and green spaces where they can freely play, feeling safe and secure.

WHEREAS, through its parks, trails, lakeshore, green spaces and other outdoor areas, Cleveland provides a wide variety of quality outdoor opportunities for its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights declares that every child in Cleveland has the right to: 1) breath fresh and clean air; 2) recreate safely on the beaches and in the waters of Lake Erie; 3) play in clean parks, greenspaces, rivers, and streams; 4) bike on safe trails in parks that connect community; 5) hike and explore safely in nature; 6) walk along tree-lines streets in their neighborhood; 7) play in the snow, build a snowman, ride a sled, and throw a snowball; 8) dig in soil, plant and nurture a seed, and watch it grow; 9) engage and connect with their community at events in parks and greenspaces; 10) bond with family and friends over an outdoor meal; 11) watch the stars shine bright during a peaceful night of camping; and 12) learn in nature, building confidence to be stewards of our natural world; 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 this Council adopts the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights to declare the City of Cleveland's commitment to providing access to parks and green spaces and a wide variety of quality outdoor opportunities for every Cleveland child.

Section 2. That this Council directs the Clerk of Council to transmit copies of this Resolution to John Marshall School of Civic and Business Leadership Sustainability Club, Mary Kennedy-Brown, Educator; and Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Renee Boronka, Director of Conservation Education and Outreach.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby 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.

/jho
3-31-2025
FOR: Council Members Kazy, Howse-Jones and Santana

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READ FIRST TIME on MARCH 31, 2025 **REPORTS**
and referred to DIRECTOR of Law;
COMMITTEE on Workforce Education Training and Youth Development

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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REPORT

after second Reading

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE ON

WORKFORCE, EDUCATION, TRAINING and YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

FILED WITH COMMITTEE _____