

RESOLUTION NO. 89-24

A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING SPRING GROVE CEMETERY'S ACCEPTANCE TO THE NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM.

WHEREAS: The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program honors, preserves and promotes the history of resistance to enslavement through escape and flight and helps to advance the idea that all human beings embrace the right to self-determination and freedom from oppression;

WHEREAS: Spring Grove Cemetery has been accepted to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program (NTF) as one of sixteen new designated NTF sites across the U.S.; and

WHEREAS: Spring Grove's NTF designation is an honor to Medina and its history and role in the Underground Railroad; and

WHEREAS: H.G. Blake (1818-1876) and Elizabeth Blake (1821-1893), who are buried in Section 5 at Spring Grove Cemetery, sheltered freedom seekers at their Medina home on East Washington Street; and

WHEREAS: Lt. Col. Herman Canfield (1817-1862), a staunch abolitionist who played a leadership role in the Underground Railroad in northeast Ohio, and his wife Sarah Ann (Martha) Canfield (18-26-1889), who founded the Canfield Colored Orphan Asylum in Memphis, TN, are also buried in Section 5 at Spring Grove Cemetery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA, OHIO:

SEC. 1: That the Council of the City of Medina hereby commemorates Spring Grove Cemetery's acceptance to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (NTF), and congratulates the members of the Friends of the Cemetery who contributed to this project.

PASSED: April 22, 2024

SIGNED: James A. Shields
President of Council Pro-Tem

ATTEST: Kathy Patton
Clerk of Council

APPROVED: April 22, 2024

SIGNED: John M. Coyne, III
Acting Mayor