

**RESOLUTION NO. RS2019- 126**

**A Resolution recognizing Oasis Center, Inc. upon the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

WHEREAS, Oasis Center, Inc. will recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding this year; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, community volunteers, supported by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, established the Rap House, the organization that would become Oasis Center, Inc., to support young people struggling with drug and alcohol abuse; and

WHEREAS, thanks to a grant awarded by the U.S. Family and Youth Services Bureau's Basic Centers Program in 1975, the Oasis House was founded in partnership with the Rap House as a refuge for runaway and homeless youth; and

WHEREAS, Oasis House formed its first youth advisory council in 1978, paving the way for youth voice and active leadership in the Nashville community, including the Nashville Youth Network, later established by Oasis House in 1984; and

WHEREAS in 1985, the Rap House and its partner agency Oasis House joined together and were incorporated as Oasis Center, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the Junior League, Oasis Center, Inc., established its division of the Teen Outreach Program (TOP) and International Teen Outreach Program (ITOP) in 1992, which, in 1993, was designated as a "model dropout prevention program" in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Oasis Center, Inc., as a progression of its Basic Center Program, constructed a new emergency shelter to serve runaway and homeless youth; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Family and Youth Services Bureau awarded Oasis Center, Inc. a federal Street Outreach grant in 1998, which it continues to receive to this day, to support homeless, runaway, and street youth to help them find stable housing and services in Metro Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the Mayor's Office, Oasis Center facilitated the first of six Mayor's Youth Councils that works to increase youth civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, Oasis youth conducted research and released a report in 2006, "College Access: From the Inside Out", that led to Oasis College Connection assisting thousands of first-generation college-bound students; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Oasis Center, Inc. relocated its services to one central location, joining with five other youth serving agencies to create the Youth Opportunity Center on Charlotte Avenue, for which they received the Center for Nonprofit Management's Innovation in Action Award; and

WHEREAS, Oasis Center, Inc. established dedicated services for youth with juvenile court contact through REAL (Reaching Excellence As Leaders); LGBTQ dedicated programs through Just Us; and increased transportation mobility through the Oasis Bike Workshop and MTA Youth Action Team; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Oasis Center, Inc. established Nashville's first and only youth-dedicated, permanent housing for youth, ages 18-24, experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Oasis Center, Inc., in collaboration with the Homeless Impact Division and 19 other community agencies, established Nashville's Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness; and,

WHEREAS, in its 50 years, the organization has grown to over 80 full-time staff, operating 20 positive youth-development programs, and engaging more than 3,500 youth annually in the areas of crisis-to-housing services, youth engagement and action, and college and career success; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognizes Oasis Center, Inc. on this historic occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and commend its dedication to serving Nashville's youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That the Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as recognizing Oasis Center, Inc. upon the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

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Freddie O'Connell

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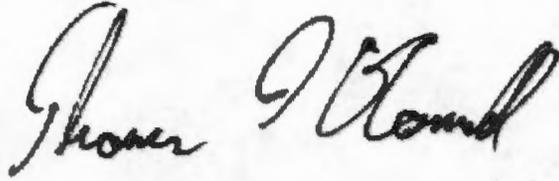
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Members of Council

**Electronic Signature Page**

(Attach to Legislation Pursuant to Rule 8 of the Council Rules of Procedure)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Freddie O'Connell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F' and 'O'.

Freddie O'Connell  
Councilmember, District 19