

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

To the inaugural members of Cleveland's Commission on Black Women and Girls,

As Mayor, my vision for Cleveland is a city where all residents have unlimited opportunities to achieve social, health, and economic equality. Yet, Cleveland was ranked the worst city in America for Black women in 2021. This statistic is unacceptable. I created this Commission with one clear objective: improving the lives of Black women and girls at the local level by centering the voices of Black women's leadership in our city.

The Cleveland Commission on Black Women and Girls is a historic and paramount step toward improving the living conditions for Black women and girls in our community. My administration and Cleveland City Council rigorously vetted a competitive pool of applicants to serve on this commission. You have been selected for this role because of your leadership, your inclination to challenge the status quo, and your commitment to the Cleveland community. I trust this commission of change-makers to provide the expertise and vision needed to chart a path to prosperity for the Black women and girls of Cleveland.

In the months and years ahead, I look forward to listening, collaborating, and heeding your recommendations for programs and legislation that will improve outcomes for Black women and girls, their families and communities. The entire city of Cleveland looks to this group for your comprehensive expertise regarding the health, wealth, and wellbeing of Black women in our city.

Thank you for accepting this historic charge to serve your community. When Black women thrive, Cleveland thrives.

Sincerely,

Justin M. Bibb

Mayor, City of Cleveland

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