

BY ALDS. SPIKER, BROSTOFF, DIMITRIJEVIC, MURPHY, BORKOWSKI, PEREZ, RAINEY, BAUMAN, COGGS, CHAMBERS, STAMPER, ZAMARRIPA, WESTMORELAND, TAYLOR, PRATT

Resolution recognizing Erica Breitbarth on her contributions as choir director and music educator at Ronald Wilson Reagan College Preparatory High School.

WHEREAS,

ERICA BREITBARTH

was recognized in May 2023 for her multiple and consequential contributions as choir director and music educator at Ronald Wilson Reagan College Preparatory High School; and

WHEREAS, Erica Breitbarth began working with band director Adam Murphy in 2009 to build a music program from scratch at Reagan IB, and she helped oversee rapid growth in the music program, with more than 400 of the school's 1,300 students now involved in a music class or club and an increasing number of graduates pursuing careers in music and music education; and

WHEREAS, Erica Breitbarth reformed the Milwaukee Music Educators Association to advocate for the adoption of MPS Music Education Policies and Procedures, ensuring that all students throughout Milwaukee have equitable access to music education, and advised district committees regarding implementation of new music policies, ensuring that schools that had been without music teachers were prioritized for additional staffing; and

WHEREAS, Erica Breitbarth recruited talented music educators from around the country to move to Milwaukee to work as music teachers within Milwaukee Public Schools, and supported and encouraged Reagan alumni to earn teacher licensure and return to MPS as classroom music teachers; and

WHEREAS, Erica Breitbarth coordinated the performance of student compositions by partnering with Milwaukee new music ensemble, Present Music, so that children could hear their music recorded by professional musicians, and founded and presented 14 full-length school musical productions allowing children to sing, act, and dance in costumes, with live orchestral accompaniment, lights, and sound; and

WHEREAS, Erica Breitbarth advocated for the physical renovations and improvements to rehearsal and performance spaces at Reagan IB, including upgraded staging, platforms, seating, equipment, sound and lighting, and coordinated hundreds of field trips to local music and arts performances for the purpose of exposing students to the joys of musical theater, opera, oratorio, and chorale performances; and

WHEREAS, Erica Breitbarth worked tirelessly to develop partnerships with local musicians and the Zilber Family Foundation, the Florentine Opera, the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra and other organizations to provide Reagan students with musical training and resources; and

WHEREAS, Erica Breitbarth was a finalist for a 2017 Grammy Music Educator Award for her work in choir, musical theater, musical performance, and her contributions with Reagan choir members at Garden District tree lightings was profound in its significance and reach; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith recognizes Erica Breitbarth for her multiple and consequential contributions as choir director and music educator at Ronald Wilson Reagan College Preparatory High School, extends its appreciation on behalf of the community and wishes her continued success and happiness; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Erica Breitbarth, an outstanding educator.

Introduced by Common Council members Scott Spiker, Jonathan Brostoff, Marina Dimitrijevic, Mark A. Borkowski, José G. Pérez, Khalif J. Rainey, Robert J. Bauman, Milele A. Coggs, Mark Chambers, Jr., Russell W. Stamper, II, Lamont Westmoreland, Larresa Taylor, Andrea Pratt, and JoCasta Zamarripa and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on May 31, 2023.