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## **Rickell Howard Smith Appointed President & CEO of YWCA Greater Cincinnati**

CINCINNATI (January 5, 2023) – The Board of Directors of the YWCA Greater Cincinnati today announced the appointment of Rickell Howard Smith as President & CEO of the organization, founded in 1868 to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people. She will begin her new role on February 1, 2023.

Smith, who is the first African-American leader of the organization, is a civil rights attorney with experience as a nonprofit executive director in racial justice advocacy serving the Greater Cincinnati region. She began her career in Cincinnati in 2006 as an attorney at Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio, rising to a number of prominent leadership roles serving women and children in the community.

“We are thrilled to announce that Rickell Howard Smith will lead the YWCA Greater Cincinnati to serve our mission of eliminating racism and empowering women,” said **Anne Mulder**, Board Chair of the YWCA Greater Cincinnati. “As the fifth oldest YWCA in America, we have the great honor of serving our community to promote justice and dignity, and know Rickell has the experience and passion to do so.”

Mulder added, “We conducted a national search for our next leader and are pleased that our top selection was born and raised in Cincinnati.”

Most recently, she has served as the Founding Executive Director of the Center for Social Justice at Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio. She also has served in leadership positions at the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Children’s Law Center, Inc. in Covington and the Ohio Justice & Policy Center.

Smith is also active in the community serving as the Past Board Chair of Planned Parenthood of Southwest Ohio, Advisory Board Member for All-In Cincinnati Racial Equity Coalition and a Member of the Hamilton County Economic Inclusion Advisory Council and the Cincinnati City Manager’s Advisory Group on Policing.

“I have long admired and supported the mission of YWCA Greater Cincinnati in my roles working as a civil rights attorney, nonprofit leader and racial justice advocate in the Cincy region,” said **Smith**, who was born and raised in Cincinnati. “I look forward to leading this historic organization and its efforts to eliminate racism and empower women in our community.

She is a graduate of Howard University and Temple University’s Beasley School of Law. Smith and her husband reside in Cincinnati with their two children.

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### **About YWCA Greater Cincinnati**

YWCA Greater Cincinnati is a nonprofit organization with the mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. We have been at the forefront of the most pressing social movements and addressing issues affecting women, girls, and people of color for 154 years. Every day we stand

up for survivors of domestic violence by providing safety, support, and stability. We foster dialogue, provide practical resources, educate, and initiate social change that will create a community of peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. We do this work boldly, unapologetically, and collaboratively, fueled with the fierce urgency of now. YWCA Greater Cincinnati is a United Way partner agency. Worldwide, the YWCA impacts more than 25 million people in over 120 countries. For information, visit [www.ywcacincinnati.org](http://www.ywcacincinnati.org).