

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board Meeting

April 16, 2020

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CONTRACT WITH EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE
FOR SPEAKER ENGAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, The Cleveland Public Library, through its Outreach and Programming Services Department, has selected Bryan Stevenson, an author, attorney, and advocate for social justice to speak at a Library event on December 5, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stevenson founded the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama in 1989 to provide representation to people who have been illegally convicted, unfairly sentenced, or abused in jails and prisons. The Equal Justice Initiative is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for those most vulnerable in American society; and

WHEREAS, In addition to founding the Equal Justice Initiative, Mr. Stevenson is the author of New York Times Bestseller, *Just Mercy*, which tells the story of the Equal Justice Initiative from its inception, through its successful campaigns to confront our history of racial injustice; and

WHEREAS, The cost of the engagement is \$45,000 plus Mr. Stevenson's travel, lodging, and meal expenses; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Trustees authorizes the Executive Director, CEO, or his designee to enter into an amendment to an agreement with the Equal Justice Initiative in the amount of \$45,000, plus an estimated \$5,000 in travel, lodging, and meal expenses, to engage Bryan Stevenson to speak at the Library event on December 5, 2020, which expenditure shall be charged to the Founders Fund Account 20380103-53710 (Professional Services), subject to the approval of the Chief Legal Officer.