

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-85

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 5, 2021

To recognize and pay homage to St. Paul AME Church on the celebration of their 165th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, on October 25, 1856, a group of freed men led by Anthony Bowen, a great civic, educational and religious leader, assisted by several other great leaders, founded St. Paul AME Church;

WHEREAS, in its early history, the Church was known as the “E” Street Mission, The Saint Paul Society and the Saint Paul Chapel;

WHEREAS, in 1859, the founders along with their supporters, following the tenets of biblical history and believing in God’s command to His servants to “arise and build,” purchased land on Eighth Street, Southwest on which the first edifice was built;

WHEREAS, during the post-war days of 1865 and the reconstruction era much was done to help the free men and women of color and the freed slaves who were coming into the district;

WHEREAS, the Church served in a triple capacity, as an educational institution, an underground railway for escaping slaves and as a religious meeting place;

WHEREAS, in the early days, many prominent speakers, including Phyllis Wheatly, were presented, at some of the services;

WHEREAS, St. Paul has been blessed in having many outstanding and distinguished pastors who have contributed significantly to its spiritual, financial, physical growth and expansion;

WHEREAS, among its expansions was the “adoption” of Solomon Temple Church in Trinidad and Tobago, the home of one of its current ministers;

WHEREAS, because of urban redevelopment of the Southwest area, St. Paul was relocated to its current location at 4900 14th Street, NW under the pastorate of Rev. George R. Reid;

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WHEREAS, for the past fifty-three (53) years, St. Paul has been a mainstay on the corner of 14th and Emerson Streets. NW and has served a beacon of lights for others to follow;

WHEREAS, since its existence St. Paul has played a significant part in community activities through its many acts of kindness, outreach, giving, programs and service. Its motto is “A Loving Church with a Mind to Work.”;

WHEREAS, in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Paul’s services have been delivered virtually;

WHEREAS, St. Paul’s current Pastor is the Rev. Wanda E. London who has successfully moved the worship service from in-person to Zoom and Facebook. Under her leadership, the church has been blessed spiritually and the attendance has increased;

WHEREAS, on Sunday, October 24th at its 10:30 AM Worship Service, St. Paul will celebrate its 165th Anniversary. The theme is “We’ve Come This Far by Faith.” 2 Corinthians 5:7;

WHEREAS, the Spoken Word will be given by Rev. Dr. James L. Davis, Prelate of the Second Episcopal District.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “St. Paul AME Church 165th Anniversary Ceremonial Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes and pays homage to St. Paul AME Church on the celebration of their 165th Anniversary.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.