

1 Brianne K. Nadeau

2
3 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

Janeese Lewis George

4
5 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

6 Mary Cheh

7 Councilmember Mary Cheh

Robert C. White, Jr.

8 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

9 Kenyan McDuffie

10 Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie

Anita Bonds

11 Councilmember Anita Bonds

12 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

13 _____
14 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
15 _____

16
17
18
19 To recognize and pay homage to St. Paul AME Church on the celebration of their 165th
20 Anniversary.

21
22 WHEREAS, on October 25, 1856, a group of freed men led by Anthony Bowen, a great
23 civic, educational and religious leader, assisted by several other great leaders, founded St. Paul
24 AME Church;

25
26 WHEREAS, in its early history, the Church was known as the "E" Street Mission,
27 The Saint Paul Society and the Saint Paul Chapel;

28
29 WHEREAS, in 1859, the founders along with their supporters, following the tenets of
30 biblical history and believing in God's command to His servants to "arise and build," purchased land
31 on Eighth Street, Southwest on which the first edifice was built;

32
33 WHEREAS, during the post-war days of 1865 and the reconstruction era much was
34 done to help the free men and women of color and the freed slaves who were coming into the
35 district;

36
37 WHEREAS, the Church served in a triple capacity, as an educational institution, an
38 underground railway for escaping slaves and as a religious meeting place;

39
40 WHEREAS, in the early days, many prominent speakers, including Phyllis Wheatly,
41 were presented, at some of the services;

42

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

46
47 WHEREAS, among its expansions was the “adoption” of Solomon Temple Church in
48 Trinidad and Tobago, the home of one of its current ministers;

49
50 WHEREAS, because of urban redevelopment of the Southwest area, St. Paul was
51 relocated to its current location at 4900 14th Street, NW under the pastorate of Rev. George R.
52 Reid;

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

56
57 WHEREAS, since its existence St. Paul has played a significant part in community
58 activities through its many acts of kindness, outreach, giving, programs and service. Its motto is
59 “A Loving Church with a Mind to Work.”;

60
61 WHEREAS, in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Paul’s services have
62 been delivered virtually;

63
64 WHEREAS, St. Paul’s current Pastor is the Rev. Wanda E. London who has successfully
65 moved the worship service from in-person to Zoom and Facebook. Under her leadership, the
66 church has been blessed spiritually and the attendance has increased;

67
68 WHEREAS, on Sunday, October 24th at its 10:30 AM Worship Service, St. Paul will
69 celebrate its 165th Anniversary. The theme is “We’ve Come This Far by Faith.” 2 Corinthians
70 5:7;

71
72 WHEREAS, the Spoken Word will be given by Rev. Dr. James L. Davis, Prelate of the
73 Second Episcopal District.

74
75 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
76 resolution may be cited as the “St. Paul AME Church 165th Anniversary Ceremonial
77 Resolution of 2021”.

78
79 Sec. 2. The Council recognizes and pays homage to St. Paul AME Church on the
80 celebration of their 165th Anniversary.

81
82 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
83 the District of Columbia Register.