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Councilmember Anita Bonds

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To honor and recognize St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, on the 170th anniversary of its founding.

WHEREAS, St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church was founded on October 25, 1856, by a courageous group of freed men led by Anthony Bowen, establishing a legacy of faith, freedom, and education that is now celebrating 170 years of service to our community;

WHEREAS, in its early years, the congregation was known by several names, including the “E” Street Mission, the St. Paul Society, and the St. Paul Chapel, reflecting its growth and evolving role within the African American community of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, in 1859, the founders of the congregation purchased land on 8th Street, SW, establishing a permanent home for the church and creating a lasting institution in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, during its first one hundred years, St. Paul AME Church served not only as a house of worship, but also as an educational institution and a center of community life;

WHEREAS, St. Paul AME Church was an important gathering place for supporters of the Underground Railroad and African Americans seeking emancipation;

WHEREAS, the history of St. Paul AME Church is intertwined with the history of African Americans and their continuing struggle for freedom, equality, justice, and human dignity;

WHEREAS, throughout its 170-year history, St. Paul AME Church has remained an institution serving our community with hope, education, faith, fellowship, and ministry;

47 WHEREAS, the history of St. Paul AME Church is intertwined with the history of
48 African Americans and their continuing struggle for freedom, equality, justice, and human
49 dignity;
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51 WHEREAS, for 170 years, the clergy, leaders, members, and family of St. Paul have
52 contributed to the spiritual, civic, education, and cultural life of DC; and
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54 WHEREAS, the 170th anniversary of the establishment of St. Paul provides an important
55 opportunity to honor the founders and generation of congregants whose faith, sacrifice, and
56 service have sustained this historic institution.
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58 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that the
59 Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the St. Paul American Methodist Episcopal
60 Church.
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62 Sec. 2. The resolution may be cited as the “St. Paul American Methodist Episcopal
63 Church Recognition Resolution of 2026.”
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65 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
66 the District of Columbia Register.