

RESOLUTION NO. 150714

Recognizing and honoring St. John A.M.E. Church in Kansas City on its 146th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, the long history of St. John A.M. E. Church in Kansas City, Missouri, 1869-2015 has allowed its members to celebrate the end of slavery in Missouri, and the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Richard Allen, First Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), was born a slave and did not live to see the end of slavery; and

WHEREAS, in 1868, the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified which granted citizenship to persons born in the United States of America and one year later Rev. John R. Loving organized St. John A.M.E. at 16th and Genesee Street in the basement of the home of Mrs. Amanda Loving Wright, a former slave; and

WHEREAS, in 1870, St. John A.M.E. Church built a small church at 9th Street and Kansas where Rev. M. R. Meyers became the first pastor and it was the year that the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified which gave black men the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, in 1889, the growing congregation of St. John AME built a new church at 941 Bell Street with the pastor being Rev. M. Beckley until moving the Church to 1747 Bellevue; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, St. John A.M.E. Church moved to 3501 E. Meyer Boulevard and became the first African American congregation on Meyer Boulevard with the first pastor at this location being Rev. Raymond Handy, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, for 146 years, St. John A.M.E. Church has been under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of approximately 15 Bishops, 25 presiding elders and 40 pastors with leadership in the church at its 146th Anniversary being the Rt. Rev. T. Larry Kirkland, Presiding Bishop, Rev. Donna F. Roberson Presiding Elder, Rev. Jane Elizabeth Burns Lane, Pastor; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby recognize and honor St. John A.M.E. Church in Kansas City on its 146th Anniversary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to St. John A.M.E. Church with the appreciation of the Mayor, Council and citizens of Kansas City for providing a place of refuge and spiritual encouragement for the past 146 years.

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Authenticated as Passed

*[Handwritten signature in blue ink]*

Sly James, Mayor

*[Handwritten signature in black ink]*

Marilyn Sanders, City Clerk

AUG 27 2015

Date Passed