



Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, TN

Legislation Text

File #: RS2021-782, **Version:** 1

A Resolution recognizing the 150th anniversary of The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Tennessee celebrated its 150th anniversary this past year; and

WHEREAS, African American Freemasonry or Prince Hall Freemasonry is synonymous with its founder and name sake Prince Hall, who along with 14 other men of African descent gave birth to a world-renowned organization of Freemasonry which accepted men from various backgrounds as long as they were free born and came well recommended; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 1784 a charter was issued to African Lodge No.1 and was re-styled as African Lodge No. 459. This seminal moment in Freemasonic history would usher into existence all that we revere as Prince Hall Masonry today; and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 1870 duly elected officers met in Nashville, Tennessee for the express purpose of forming a Prince Hall Grand Lodge for the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the lodges represented at this historic event were Rock City Lodge No. 17 of Nashville, East Star, Lodge No. 20 also of Nashville and Job Thompson Lodge No. 33 of Pulaski, all warranted under the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, in the intervening years, 148 to be exact, the vagaries of growing a fraternal organization such as this had seen all manner of issues especially since in 1870 was a tumultuous time for those men who were suffering from the effects of injustice in the Jim Crow South; and

WHEREAS, Prince Hall Masons have been at the forefront of the civil rights movement as well championing causes which promote community service and a selfless dedication to justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, despite all the obstacles and the social turbulence of the times the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of Tennessee has endured and prospered. Inasmuch as one could point to a particular Grand Master as the catalyst for the successes and or failures, it is the broad shoulders of the men who have knelt at the sacred altar and ridden the goat who are propelled by the vision of the Grand East, which in the end has made the present today possible; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognizes the 150th anniversary of this important organization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That the Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County hereby goes record as recognizing and congratulating The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Tennessee on its 150th Anniversary and that this city honor this noteworthy day.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.