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# Resolution

of the City Council

## St. Andrew's African Methodist Episcopal Church 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**WHEREAS**, 150 years ago, in 1850 (the same year that California became the thirty-first state admitted to the Union), a local preacher named Rev. Barney Fletcher organized a church in the home of Daniel Blue; and

**WHEREAS**, in October 1850, authorized trustees purchased a lot located on 7<sup>th</sup> Street (between G & H) for \$250, and this site became the location of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church of Sacramento, which was built for a sum of \$3,000; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1854 the first AME Sunday School in the far west was organized, which became the site of the first public school organized for children of color - African Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Americans - with classes being held in the basement of the church; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1855 the church was the site of the first statewide convention of the colored citizens of California, the first organized political activity by people of African descent in California aimed at securing citizenship rights and improvement of their people; and

**WHEREAS**, in August 1874 the church received papers of incorporation, and in 1858, 1868 and 1883, the church building underwent extensive remodeling, reconstruction and expansion; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the church was renamed St. Andrew's African Methodist Episcopal Church, and by 1947 the congregation and outreach program had outgrown its birthplace and relocated to its present location at 8<sup>th</sup> and V Streets; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Andrew's was organized years before the Civil War and the enactment of the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments to the United States Constitution, and during a time in history when people of African descent were far removed from freedom.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the City of Sacramento that we hereby recognize Barney Fletcher's courage, vision and commitment as he surmounted obstacles on his courageous task of organizing the first African Methodist Episcopal Church to grace the Pacific Coast; **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we congratulate St. Andrew's African Methodist Episcopal Church upon their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and thank them for their substantial contribution to the Sacramento community.

ISSUED: This 19th Day of September, 2000

*Janette R. Yee*  
JANETTE R. YEE, MAYOR

*Heather Fargo*  
HEATHER FARGO, DISTRICT ONE

*Robert Kerth*  
ROBERT KERTH, DISTRICT TWO

*Steve Cohn*  
STEVE COHN, DISTRICT THREE

*Joseph N. Yee*  
JOSEPH N. YEE, DISTRICT FOUR

*Lauren R. Hammond*  
LAUREN R. HAMMOND, DISTRICT FIVE

*Dave Jones*  
DAVE JONES, DISTRICT SIX

*Robbie Waters*  
ROBBIE WATERS, DISTRICT SEVEN

*Bonnie J. Pannell*  
BONNIE J. PANNELL, DISTRICT EIGHT

*Valerie Burrowes*  
VALERIE BURROWES, CITY CLERK