

State of South Carolina)

County of Sumter)

Resolution

Whereas, Prince Hall is recognized as the Father of Black Masonry in the United States, and Prince Hall made it possible for future masons to be recognized and enjoy all privileges of Free and Accepted Masonry; and

Whereas, Black Freemasonry began when Prince Hall and fourteen other free black men were initiated into Lodge No. 441, Irish Constitution, attached to the 38th Regiment of Foot, British Army Garrisoned at Castle William (now Fort Independence) Boston Harbor on March 6, 1775, and

Whereas, Once the British Army left Boston in 1776, Lodge, No. 441, he and his brethren were granted authority to meet as African Lodge #1 (Under Dispensation), to go in procession on St. John's Day, and as a Lodge to bury their dead; but they could not confer degrees nor perform any other Masonic "work"; and

Whereas, Prince Hall's tenacity, persistence, and commitment paid off when finally on March 2, 1784, Prince Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England, through a Worshipful Master of a subordinate Lodge in London (William Moody of Brotherly Love Lodge No. 55) for a warrant or charter; and

Whereas, The Warrant was granted on September 29, 1784, delivered in Boston on April 29, 1787, and was organized one week later, May 6, 1787.

Therefore Be It Resolved, that Sumter County Council of Sumter County, South Carolina commend posthumously Prince Hall for his challenging and dedicated work to stay the course to establish this worldwide fraternity; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Sumter County Council recognize that over 4,500 lodges, 45 independent jurisdictions, and over 300,000 masons make up this distinctive body because of the initial vision of Prince Hall and his brethren who paved the way for members such as Thurgood Marshall, Benjamin Mays; Duke Ellington, and Harry A. Williamson, and many more; and

Be It Still Further Resolved, that Sumter County Council laude Prince Hall Masonry and The Prince Hall Mason for being the oldest and most profound fraternal organization in the United States and this body continues to seek "good hearted men" who are worthy and well qualified to seek more light in masonry for the betterment of our community and this nation. Given under the seal of the Sumter County, South Carolina this 6th day of **March** 2005.



SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL

Louis Fleming, Chairman

ATTEST

Mary W. Blanding, Clerk