

RESOLUTION OF ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD IN ACKNOWLEDGING THE HISTORY OF THE QUEEN CITY NEIGHBORHOOD

WHEREAS, the Arlington County Board recognizes that the Queen City neighborhood was established in 1892 with the purchase of land for housing lots and a church, eventually renamed Mount Olive Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, the original residents and congregants had lived at or were descended from Freedman's Village, a settlement of formerly enslaved people of the Arlington estate who were evicted by the federal government from land later used for Arlington National Cemetery, and

WHEREAS, over the next five decades, the Queen City neighborhood grew to over 900 residents, with houses, stores, restaurants, a movie theater, a trolley stop, and a fire station covering less than 30 acres of land, and

WHEREAS, in 1942 the federal government evicted the residents of Queen City and destroyed the neighborhood to complete road access to the Pentagon, and

WHEREAS, Arlington County Government did not advocate for the neighborhood or its residents, and families were again displaced, and

WHEREAS, over eighty years later, Arlington's Historic Preservation Program collaborated with Mr. William Vollin, a former resident of Queen City, the Black Heritage Museum, and the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board to develop a historic marker about the history of Queen City, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arlington County Board,

Wishes to acknowledge that its predecessors did not fulfill their responsibilities to the 900 residents of Queen City and the upheaval of their lives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Arlington County Board will continue to mend these wrongs that occurred in the past and will look to the future to honor and recognize the contributions of the people, congregations, and businesses of the Queen City neighborhood.

ADOPTED on this 13th day of May 2025.