

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 296083

ADOPTED ON FEB 25 2002

WHEREAS, the African Methodist Episcopal Church was started in 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by Richard Allen and a group of African worshipers in response to the need to organize an African American church that would satisfy their craving opportunities for self-expression and fuller involvement in the service of the worship of God; and

WHEREAS, the A.M.E. Church was the first black corporation in America, the first to print a Negro newspaper, "The Christian Recorder", published continuously since 1841, and has produced 11 colleges, which have educated thousands of students in an Afrocentric environment; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Memorial African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church of San Diego, California was established in 1887 and is the oldest A.M.E. Church in San Diego County; and

WHEREAS, Bethel A.M.E. Church has a growing congregation of over 1,400 members, which join the more than two million members throughout the world that comprise the A.M.E. church today; and

WHEREAS, Pastor C. Dennis Williams and the congregation at Bethel A.M.E. Church are committed to a life of practical service in the interest of the growth and development of the people, and will continue to instruct and guide its members in the Christian life; NOW,

THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby commend Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church on its 115th Anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that February 25, 2002 be and is hereby proclaimed **“BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH DAY”** in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By Stuart H. Swett
Stuart H. Swett
Senior Deputy City Attorney

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