

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LEGACY OF BENNETT COLLEGE FOR ITS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO**

WHEREAS, Bennett College (Bennett) had its beginning in 1873 in the basement of the Warnersville Methodist Episcopal Church, now known as St. Matthews United Methodist Church, before being taken over by the Freedmen's Aid Society in 1874 where it remained under its auspices for fifty years;

WHEREAS, the Women's Home Missionary Society joined with the Board of Education of the church in 1926 to establish Bennett College in Greensboro, a college for women;

WHEREAS, for approximately 146 years Bennett has been a place for women to foster a constant rhythm of ideas fostering respect for every student;

WHEREAS, the college offers twenty-four areas of study in Education, the Social Sciences, the Humanities and in Natural and Behavioral Science and Mathematics as well as opportunities to study at other higher education institutions at home and abroad;

WHEREAS, Bennett continues to focus on the intellectual, spiritual, and cultural growth of young women for a lifelong learning and leadership, and has had over 6,000 women graduate since 1930;

WHEREAS, known as Bennett Belles, graduates continue to be among contributing women of achievement in all walks of life;

WHEREAS, Bennett strives to achieve sustainability and has steadily increased its fundraising from \$3.47 million to \$4.25 million over a three-year period, increased enrollment from 409 in 2017 to 471 in 2018, raised its retention rate to 53% in the Fall 2018, and had the average grade point average (GPA) of incoming freshmen increase from 2.8 in 2017 to 3.2 in 2018;

WHEREAS, the City Council extends its support of the legacy of Bennett College for its contributions to the City of Greensboro; and encourages the community to preserve the legacy of Bennett through financial support of the Institution, as it has created a place for black women's voices to be developed and cultivated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

That it supports the legacy of Bennett College for its contributions to the citizens of the City of Greensboro.