

**A RESOLUTION BY THE ASSOCIATION OF OLDEST INHABITANTS of D.C.
COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1910 HEIGHT ACT**

WHEREAS the year 2010 will be the centennial of the 1910 Height Act signed by President William Howard Taft on June 1, 1910 (An Act to Regulate the Height of Buildings in the District of Columbia); and,

WHEREAS the 1910 Height Act has guaranteed the low-profile nature of the District of Columbia for nearly 100 years; and,

WHEREAS the 1910 Height Act has made the District of Columbia unique among the major cities of the world with its distinctive skyline; and,

WHEREAS the 1910 Height Act has been called the Third Dimension of the L'Enfant Plan; and,

WHEREAS President George Washington issued the first building height regulations for the city in 1791, concerned as much about structural and fire safety as about urban design; and,

WHEREAS Thomas Jefferson hoped the new capital would emulate Paris with buildings "low & convenient, and the streets light and airy;" and,

WHEREAS development pressures in the future may foster a desire to significantly modify the Act; and,

WHEREAS a better understanding of the nature and purpose of the Act may lead the Congress to resist such pressures; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia calls upon affected parties and stakeholders to hold a public conference in the year 2010 to discuss the history of the 1910 Height Act, how the Act has been implemented and enforced and examine issues which may affect the future of the Act. To such a forum should be invited representatives from civic and citizens associations, academia, historic preservationists, historical societies, the business community and planning and public safety officials from the Federal and District of Columbia governments.

Approved by vote of membership present

Witness

Date

Prepared by Joseph N. Grano, member AOI, May 10, 2009 with additional comments provided by the AOI Board of Directors, May 11, 2009.

Organizations to include:

Committee of 100

Federation of Citizens' Associations

National Capital Planning Commission

Fine Arts Commission

National Building Museum

AIA Foundation

National Trust for Historic Preservation

DC Preservation League

Jewish Historical Society of Washington, DC

Historical Society of Washington, DC

National Park Service, Mall & Monuments, National Capital East, Rock Creek

DC Fire Chief/Fire Marshal

Mayor/Deputy Mayor for Economic Development

DC Office of Planning/Historic Preservation Officer