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

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Witness                                   Date
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