

A Ceremonial Resolution

to officially welcome and accept descendants of the
Association of the Oldest Inhabitants - Colored, Incorporated into the Association of the Oldest
Inhabitants of DC

Whereas: The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia was founded on December 7, 1865 by 31 of the city's most prominent men as an organization dedicated to maintain and promote a lively interest in matters of local historic and cultural interest and to keep alive and preserve reminiscences of the past; and,
Whereas: The organization's membership, like those who established it, was limited to white men over the age of 60 years until on or about its centennial in 1965 when it welcomed members of all genders, race, and age; and
Whereas: The organization officially incorporated in 1903 and was recognized by the District of Columbia as an Incorporated Entity as entered into the books of the Recorder of Deeds, and whose records and filings today are accessible on various D.C. government licensing platforms; and,
Whereas: About 1905 a parallel African American organization was established which reflected those initial goals of the AOI of D.C. but whose founders were prevented from joining the original organization and was, itself, incorporated in 1916 as The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants (Colored), Incorporated; and,
Whereas: The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants (Colored), later simply "The Oldest Inhabitants, Inc.," became a more civically active organization than the original organization, advocating on behalf of the under-served of D.C., and promoting integration of the public safety agencies, schools, and government positions, while the original AOI focused on the more traditional issues of history and preservation; and,
Whereas: There are accounts of the two organizations having met jointly in 1917 and 1919 for "pleasant exchanges of words"; however, there are no other documented instances of further interaction; and,
Whereas: While the both organizations appear to have flourished through the years, the records of the AOI (Colored) from 1942 to 1962 are the only ones ever recovered and are now housed at Howard University's Moorland-Spangarn Library through the efforts of the original AOI's members to locate and preserve those records; and,
Whereas: It was never understood why the Letters of Incorporation for the AOI (Colored) Incorporated were word-for-word those of the original organization until in 2022, it was discovered that that the second President of the AOI of DC was an ancestor of one of the founders of the AOI (Colored), Incorporated, thus establishing the ancestral connection between the two organizations, and that today only the original organization remains active,
Now therefore be it Resolved that the Officers, Directors, and Membership of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia welcome and embrace all those who by virtue of their and their ancestors' eligibility in the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants (Colored), Incorporated are officially welcomed into the surviving organization, The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia.

March 21, 2024

Approved by the Membership

Ric Marino

Attested to by the AOI Secretary



March 21, 2024