

RESOLUTION D-183

HOMER G. PHILLIPS

Submitted by the Emery Washington Convocation

WHEREAS the original 600 bed Homer G. Phillip Hospital was opened and formally dedicated in 1937 to care for the African-American sick, and to provide training to African-American physicians and nurses; and

WHEREAS in 1936 the hospital provided internal medicine, x-ray, neuro-psychiatry, pediatrics, dermatology, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, urology, eye, ear, nose and throat, gynecology, cardiology, obstetrics and dental surgery services; and

WHEREAS the hospital supported non-medical employment of African-Americans in food services, laundry, sewing, housekeeping, building services, carpentry, paint, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical infrastructure services; and,

WHEREAS the Homer G. Phillips Hospital was a triumph for Black St. Louis and the Ville neighborhood during many years of segregation; and

WHEREAS a 3-bed clinic built in the gentrifying area of the former Pruitt-Igoe housing development has been designated the “Homer G Phillips Memorial Hospital” over the objections of the Homer G Phillips Nurses Alumni Association and the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen;

BE IT RESOLVED that this 183rd Convention of the Diocese of Missouri, in support of the Homer G Phillips Nurses Alumni Association and the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen, recommends that the name Homer G. Phillips, be reserved for a teaching hospital facility that provides wide-ranging medical services to the community, trains African-American doctors and nurses, and supports economic growth in the African-American community;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a three-bed clinic falls woefully short of these criteria. Therefore, a copy of this Resolution will be sent to the developer and to the Board of Directors of the proposed medical clinic project requesting that they do not attach the Homer G. Phillips name to their clinic project.

RATIONALE

Homer G Phillips was a Black attorney and civil rights activist, prominent in the civic and public life in St. Louis, who lobbied in support of a 1922 St. Louis bond issue for the building of a stand-alone hospital, rather than an annex to City Hospital No. 1.

The newly erected hospital was composed of five buildings: The Administration Building (with quarters for interns and resident physicians), North and South Wards, the Service Building, a home for nurses with an apartment annex for the Superintendent and Medical Director.

Homer G Phillips hospital is renowned as a Black public hospital that trained hospital doctors, nurses, radiologists, lab techs, and other medical personnel. It was often the only place a Black medical worker could receive training in the United States. Homer G Phillips hospitals' reputation is global, earning acknowledgement in the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.