

Proclamation

WHEREAS,

In 1929, Lula Jones and Nellie Lindley Davis, two stalwarts of Atlanta's oldest black congregation, Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, gave birth to the idea of the great *Heaven Bound*, and in 1930, the first production of *Heaven Bound* took form; and



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WHEREAS,

Heaven Bound is a sacred play that portrays the struggles and pitfalls that beset poor sinful mortals striving to enter the golden gates of the promised land, and arises out of the lives and souls of a race, tapping into a universal fascination with the journey and fate of the pilgrim soul, and tells a powerful story of the road to Heaven and the pitfalls along the way; and



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WHEREAS,

Heaven Bound is the longest consecutive running production in the United States with a cast of generational family and church members who portray Saints, Pilgrims, and Angels who bring to their roles the unique dimension of their own predicaments to guide their dramatic instincts; these stunning actors transform the aisles of the church into a real stretch of life's highway that might be called the *Heaven Bound* experience; and



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WHEREAS,

Big Bethel A.M.E. Church recently celebrated its 175th anniversary in October and now hosts its 90th production of *Heaven Bound* on November 11th & 12th, 2022; more than one million people from all walks of life have been uplifted and entertained by *Heaven Bound* and Big Bethel A.M.E. Church is proud to continue this legacy;



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Big Bethel A.M.E. Church and its historic production of *Heaven Bound* for continuing to provide the community with spiritual wellness and knowledge, and does hereby proclaim Saturday, November 12, 2022 as "**HEAVEN BOUND APPRECIATION DAY**" in Fulton County, Georgia.



FULTON COUNTY

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner

Attest:

Clerk to the Commission

F U L T O N C O U N T Y