



City of Cambridge

R-20.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 20, 2008

MAYOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR KELLEY
COUNCILLOR MAHER
VICE MAYOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SEIDEL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The term "Founding Fathers" has often been used by historians to refer to a small group that were in power and control during the period of confederation. The "Founders" represented property and position; and

WHEREAS: At that very same time in this nation's history, we have come to recognize other "Founders" to include those who challenged the principles of democracy, civil rights, and equality – those who embody the "we" in "we the people;" and

WHEREAS: History has often unfairly overlooked or excluded the significant contributions of Blacks, Native Americans, and women of every color. Many of these persons gave their lives to freeing this nation, that all might enjoy those privileges of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS: Prince Hall was one of these less well known, but no less notable, individuals who helped define this country's virtues. He represented those who had no voice, position or power. He exemplified those principles on which this nation was founded and greatly influenced what this nation would become. We must now consider the social and the historical meaning of the term "Founding Fathers;" and

WHEREAS: Prince Hall deserves recognition for his role as one of the first Civil Rights leaders in America. He led the efforts to allow Black men the right to join the Revolutionary Army; he created the first school organized by Black citizens for Black children, and he petitioned the Great and General Court of Massachusetts to end slavery and the slave trade. Prince Hall summed up his inclusive philosophy in a speech he gave in Cambridge on June 24, 1797, in which he stated: "Give the right hand of affection and fellowship to whom it justly belongs; let their color and complexion be what it will, let their nation be what it may, for they are your brethren;" and

WHEREAS: It is time to recognize this great African American and declare him a Founding Father as the city prepares to erect a monument to Prince Hall on the Cambridge Common. This monument shall also honor all those Black patriots – men and women of the Revolutionary Era, throughout the thirteen colonies – who sacrificed their lives for the furtherance of freedom in this nation while being denied full participation in society based solely on the color of their skin; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record declaring Prince Hall a Founding Father in the annals of history as Cambridge views and records the past in the future; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Prince Hall Memorial Committee on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council October 20, 2008.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-


D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

