

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- ____

Resolution in support of placing Historic Moravian Bethlehem on the World Heritage List

WHEREAS, Historic Moravian Bethlehem represents the core values of education, equality, industry, integrity, and spirituality that have been part of this community since 1741. With its intact core of original buildings, Historic Moravian Bethlehem preserves some of the most important structures and sites relating to the Moravians in the New World and is significant as an outstanding example of Moravian architecture and town planning. The settlement played a key role in both the international and American Moravian communities.

WHEREAS, Historic Moravian Bethlehem is working with the historic Moravian community of Herrnhut, Germany with the goal to submit an extension to the World Heritage listing in 2015 of Christiansfeld, a Moravian Church Settlement in Denmark, that would include Herrnhut in Germany, the Moravian Bethlehem District in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and possibly other historic Moravian communities around the world.

WHEREAS, the World Heritage List was established in 1972 to “encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.” There are currently just 1,000 sites on the World Heritage List. In the United States, there are only 24 World Heritage Sites, including Independence Hall in Philadelphia and the Statue of Liberty in New York City.

WHEREAS, Robert Donchez, Mayor of the City of Bethlehem and Chair of the Bethlehem World Heritage Commission, and Charlene Donchez Mowers, President of the Bethlehem World Heritage Commission and Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites, announced that a notice appeared in the Federal Register requesting public comment on the next potential nomination to the World Heritage List.

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Bethlehem applauds the effort to have Historic Moravian Bethlehem added to the World Heritage List and wishes to state its strong support for the endeavor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Bethlehem recognizes the great historical, cultural, and architectural value of Historic Moravian Bethlehem and strongly supports the City’s efforts to have the site named to the World Heritage List.

Sponsored by: _____

ADOPTED by Council this day of , 2021.

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk