

City of East Lansing, Michigan

**RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE OF ALPHA KAPPA
ALPHA SORORITY, INC. – GREAT LAKES REGION – CHI EPSILON OMEGA
CHAPTER**

October 18, 2022

WHEREAS, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is the oldest female Black Greek letter organization in the nation, founded on the campus of Howard University, one of America's first historically Black colleges and universities; and,

WHEREAS, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has 325,000 initiated members located in 12 countries; and,

WHEREAS, the Chi Epsilon Omega Chapter was chartered on October 20, 2002 in the Lincoln Room of the Kellogg Center on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, the Chi Epsilon Omega Chapter is believed to be the first African American organization chartered or established in East Lansing; and,

WHEREAS, more than one hundred and fifty members from all across the country, including Texas, Florida and Ohio, came to witness the chartering conducted by Great Lakes Regional Director Soror Pamela Redden; and,

WHEREAS, thirty-six sorors of The Ivy Forum – Joy Abbott, Lori Abbott- Smith, Cheryl Celestin, Mecha Crockett, Belva Eiland, Margaret Goodly, Lettie Green, Carol Harris, Janette Henderson, Kendra Howard, Andrea Jackson, Carrie Jackson, Danielle Jackson, Lori Jackson, Sheila Johnson, Mozell Lang, Mary Agnes Lipscomb, Sherryl Little, Patricia Little, Carolyn Logan, Carolyn Merriweather, Harriette McAdoo, Marsu McAdoo, Barbara McLeod, Myrtle Moore, Rosa Moss, Claudette Nelson, Lynette Overby, Patricia Quinn, Gloria Simmons, Deborah Smith, Marshanda Smith, Yevonne Smith, Barbara Tate, Laurin Thomas and Vernika Tyson – rededicated their commitment to the ideals and precepts of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; and,

WHEREAS, sorors Claudette Nelson and Carrie Jackson, long-time residents of East Lansing, frequently shared increased concerns about the quality of life observed among a growing population of transients and homeless families, including recent refugees and migrant families of color, in the town-gown college community; and,

WHEREAS, joined by soror Mary Agnes Lipscomb, they presented a detailed proposal, with supporting documents, to Great Lakes Regional Director Rachel Mallory on how an Alpha Kappa Alpha chapter in East Lansing would make a difference among these marginalized populations; and,

WHEREAS, after the Directorate approved soror Mallory’s recommendations, the interest group – The Ivy Forum – was organized and conducted several service projects; and,

WHEREAS, following a site visit, soror Mallory reported to the Directorate that The Ivy Forum had met all requirements and with the Directorate’s vote of approval, the charter place and date were established; and,

WHEREAS, The Ivy Forum was soon confronted with unforeseen challenges, obstacles and resistance, which influenced the Directorate to postpone charter plans for East Lansing; and,

WHEREAS, members were committed and determined with efforts that were often guided and tempered by the wit and wisdom of former Supreme Basileus Julia Purnell with unwavering expectations that a new International Directorate would uphold plans for a chapter in East Lansing; and,

WHEREAS, immediately after assuming her position, Supreme Basileus Linda White and her Directorate gave Great Lakes Regional Director Pamela Redden the pink and green light to go forward with previously approved plans to charter a chapter in East Lansing; and,

WHEREAS, since October 2002, chapter leadership has included Basilei sorors Claudette Nelson, Carrie Jackson, Patricia Quinn, Deanna Newman, Juron Leefers, Sheryl Little, Janette Eaglin, Janette Henderson, Julia Miller and Alane Laws-Barker; and,

WHEREAS, the chapter continues to implement service programs under the sorority’s strategic plans with two signature programs: Healthy Sisters Tea and The Jazz Brunch fundraiser for scholarships and service programs; and,

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – Great Lakes Region – Chi Epsilon Omega Chapter’s impressive record of service has resulted in public recognition and awards, including the Great Lakes Region Beulah T. Whitby Award for Outstanding Graduate Chapter, the City of East Lansing Crystal Award for Community Service, the Regional Director’s Exemplary Chapter Award and the Heart of Haven House Crystal Award for Homeless Shelter Service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Lansing City Council recognizes the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – Great Lakes Region – Chi Epsilon Omega Chapter for 20 years of service to the East Lansing community and further recognizes the strength, determination and resilience of the women who define this historic organization.

Ron Bacon, Mayor

Jennifer Shuster, City Clerk