

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: 7/15/2003

Reference No.: CR-37-2003

Proposer: Peters

Draft No.: 1

Sponsors: Peters, Dean, Exum, Dernoga, Harrington

Item Title: A Resolution supporting the efforts of the Committee to Clear Chaplain Plummer to seek review and reappointment by the United States Army and Congress of Chaplain Henry Vinton Plummer who was court-martialed and dishonorably discharged in 1894

Drafter: Todd Turner
Citizen Services Specialist

Resource Todd Turner
Personnel: Citizen Services Specialist

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented: __/__/__

Executive Action: __/__/__

Committee Referral: 7/1/2003 HEHS

Effective Date: __/__/__

Committee Action: 7/2/2003 FAV

Date Introduced: 7/1/2003

Public Hearing: __/__/__ __:__ __

Council Action: 7/15/2003 ADOPTED

Council Votes: PS:A, MB:A, SHD:A, TD:A, CE:A, DCH:A, TH:A, TK:A, DP:A

Pass/Fail: P

Remarks: _____

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE DATE 7/2/03

Committee Vote: Favorable, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Hendershot, Exum, Dean, and Harrington)

CR-37-2003 is public endorsement of concerned individuals (the Committee to Clear Chaplain Plummer) including family members, historians, educators, church leaders and politicians to clear the name of Henry Vinton Plummer and to ultimately seek a review from Congress, the Army and the President of the United States. Mr. Plummer was born a slave in 1844 on the Three Sisters Plantation (land in the Bowie vicinity). He joined the U.S. Navy and served three years. Upon his return to his family he enrolled in Wayland Seminary of Washington, D.C. and studied for the ministry. He served as Pastor of the St. Paul Baptist Church then located in

Bladensburg, MD. In July 1884, U.S. President Chester Arthur commissioned Mr. Plummer as the first African-American Chaplain of the U.S. Army (post Reconstruction) where he served 10 years. In August 1894, charges were raised against him and he was convicted and given a dishonorable discharge in the fall of 1894. He spent the next 10 years of his life appealing the conviction and seeking reinstatement. During this period, he moved his family to Kansas and served as a Baptist Pastor and held elected office in the Kansas State Baptist Convention until his death in 1905.

Pastor Robert Williams (St. Paul Baptist Church) spoke in support of CR-37-2003 offering information on Chaplain Plummer who was a former Pastor of St. Paul Church and a member of the founding family. Pastor Williams requested the Council's support to seek the reopening of this case and the exoneration of Chaplain Plummer for the benefit of our youth.

Councilman William Aleshire (City of Bowie) is a member of the Committee and was not able to attend the worksession. Other members of the Committee are attending a reunion in Kansas, where they are sharing further research on the Plummer case.

Correspondence was provided to the Committee members with additional background information and the efforts of the Committee to Clear Chaplain Plummer thus far.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

CODE INDEX TOPICS: