

Senate Resolution No. 1570

**BY:** Senator PARKER

**COMMENDING** the Brothers of Essene Lodge No. 97 upon the occasion of hosting their 53rd Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance on February 28, 2026

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those distinguished organizations whose efforts promote education, service, and the enrichment of their communities through scholarship, mentorship, and civic engagement; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Brothers of Essene Lodge No. 97 upon the occasion of hosting their 53rd Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance on Saturday, February 28, 2026; this distinguished event stands as a celebration of academic excellence, leadership development, and community uplift; and

**WHEREAS,** Essene Lodge No. 97 labors under the venerable jurisdiction of Prince Hall Freemasonry, an institution founded upon the enduring principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, and inspired by the legacy of Prince Hall, an abolitionist, patriot, and champion of educational and social advancement; and

**WHEREAS,** For more than five decades, Essene Lodge No. 97 has remained steadfast in its mission to support the educational aspirations of deserving students, ensuring that financial hardship does not hinder the pursuit of higher learning, professional growth, and purposeful citizenship; and

**WHEREAS,** Through scholarships, mentorship initiatives, and charitable outreach, the lodge has nurtured generations of scholars and leaders, reinforcing education as a pathway to empowerment and a cornerstone of strong and vibrant communities; and

**WHEREAS,** The Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance serves not only as a fundraiser, but as a meaningful gathering to honor scholarship recipients, recognize dedicated members and community partners, and reaffirm the lodge's collective commitment to investing in the promise of future generations; and

**WHEREAS,** Under the distinguished leadership of Worshipful Master Brother Barry Bourne, the Brothers of Essene Lodge No. 97 continue to exemplify Masonic virtue through service, integrity, and visionary stewardship, strengthening both the Fraternity and the community it serves; and

**WHEREAS,** The success and longevity of this annual celebration reflect the unity, sacrifice, and devotion of the Brothers of Essene Lodge No. 97, whose works embody the highest ideals of Prince Hall Masonry and fraternal service; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Brothers of Essene Lodge No. 97 upon the occasion of hosting their 53rd Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance, and to extend sincere appreciation to its members, organizers, and supporters for their enduring commitment to educational advancement and community service; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Worshipful Master Barry Bourne and the leadership of Essene Lodge No. 97 as a lasting expression of the respect and gratitude of this Legislative Body.