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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 271

Offered February 12, 2010

Commending the Peter Paul Development Center on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.

Patrons—McClellan and McQuinn

WHEREAS, the Peter Paul Development Center, the oldest community-based agency continuously serving Church Hill and neighboring communities in the East End of Richmond, celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2009; and

WHEREAS, a leader and innovator in youth education, the Peter Paul Development Center's Youth Program has two primary components: the After-School Learning Immersion Program and the Summer Institute; and

WHEREAS, the Peter Paul Development Center's Youth Program is distinctive in the Richmond area because it administers academic testing using nationally standardized instruments and provides children with individualized academic achievement plans that are carried out using certified teachers with master's degrees; and

WHEREAS, the Peter Paul Development Center's Youth Program staff members work to help children improve specific academic skills so they perform at their grade level, increase their social and communication skills, and increase their experiential opportunities to learn; and

WHEREAS, the Peter Paul Development Center serves 92 children, age eight to 18, in the after-school program; the Center also provides services to the senior citizens in the community, including Bible studies, luncheons, and outings; and

WHEREAS, the Peter Paul Development Center serves the East End of Richmond, where 39 percent of the families live below the poverty level and where more than 45 percent of those over the age of 25 do not have high school diplomas; and

WHEREAS, research shows that in communities with poor social and economic indicators, like those that the Peter Paul Development Center serves, children are at increased risk of poor school performance and delinquent behavior; and

WHEREAS, research also shows that children who are engaged in quality after-school programs improve their school performance and learn the life skills necessary for adult success; and

WHEREAS, the leadership, staff, and volunteers of the Peter Paul Development Center have worked with great compassion, innovation, and diligence on behalf of the citizens of the East End of Richmond for over three decades; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Peter Paul Development Center on the occasion of its 30th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Lynne Washington, Executive Director of the Peter Paul Development Center, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration and gratitude for the organization's efforts on behalf of the citizens of the East End of Richmond.