

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 130434)

RESOLUTION

Commemorating and Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Saint John's Hospice.

WHEREAS, In the early 1960's Joseph O'Neill and his brother, Father Anthony J. O'Neill, pastor of Saint John the Evangelist parish on 13th Street became increasingly saddened and concerned about the City's "skid row" within the parish boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Father O'Neill began offering sandwiches and shelter to the poor and homeless at Saint John's on a regular basis but believed that the church could do more; and

WHEREAS, As Father O'Neill began planning how the church could better help the poor and homeless in his parish, he was elevated Monsignor and while on a trip to New Orleans visited a shelter operated by the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd which further inspired his vision for helping the homeless in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, On September 17, 1962, Most Reverend John J. Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia granted Monsignor O'Neill permission to purchase the building at 1221 Race Street; and

WHEREAS, On Saturday, September 7, 1963, with the blessing of the Archbishop, Saint John's Hospice began operating; and

WHEREAS, In the early years, the clientele of the Hospice was composed of elderly men. Many were alcoholics, others simply down on their luck. These men came to Saint John's for a hot meal, clothing and shelter which were given with dignity and compassion. Because of this, Saint John's became, and still is, the melting pot of Center City's homeless population and the place where "Charity Unlimited", the Little Brothers' motto, was practiced 24 hours a day; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, Saint John's became a part of Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The Brothers continued their long hours of service and

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additional lay staff were hired to reduce the Brothers' hours to a more manageable level. Many of the new employees were former residents; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, a longtime dream was realized when the Good Shepherd Program for medically needy homeless men, including those with HIV/AIDS, opened its doors; and

WHEREAS, Saint John's Hospice today continues to operate in line with the high standards and good works of the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Commemorates and celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Saint John's Hospice.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Saint John's Hospice further evidencing the sincere admiration and respect of this legislative body.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the sixteenth of May, 2013.

Darrell L. Clarke
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Oh

Sponsored by: Councilmembers O'Brien, Jones, Greenlee, Johnson, Kenney, Goode, Henon, Blackwell and Tasco