

O R D I N A N C E

St. Paul C.M.E. (Christian Methodist Episcopal) Church

4644 S. Dearborn Street

WHEREAS, pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Municipal Code of Chicago (the "Municipal Code"), Sections 2 - 120 - 620 through - 690, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks (the "Commission") has determined that the St. Paul C.M.E. Church (the "Building"), located at 4644 S. Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, as more fully described in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein, satisfies three criteria for landmark designation as set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1), (4) and (5) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the St. Paul C.M.E. Church is significant as the first and oldest congregation of the C.M.E. denomination in the city of Chicago. The denomination was founded by people recently freed from slavery in the southern states, including Bishop Isaac Lane, who co-established the St. Paul congregation in 1907; and,

WHEREAS, the Building was constructed in 1917 to host the 1918 General Conference of the C.M.E. Church. The conference was the first in the history of the C.M.E. denomination to be held north of the Mason-Dixon Line. At the conference, the construction of the Building represented the spread of the C.M.E. denomination northward following Reconstruction in the south and the fledging movement of the Great Migration; and,

WHEREAS, the St. Paul C.M.E. Church has served as a stable and enduring presence in the Grand Boulevard Community Area and Bronzeville neighborhood for over a century. The congregation has served as an anchor, as the community experienced shifts in demographics, socioeconomics, and the built environment. Through its mission work, the St. Paul C.M.E. Church has extended beyond its boundaries of religious affiliation to become a devoted pillar to the broader community; and,

WHEREAS, the Building is significant as a representation of C.M.E. ecclesiastical architecture in the city of Chicago in the early decades of the 1900s, first prototyped in the design of the headquarters of the C.M.E. church in Jackson, Tennessee; and,

WHEREAS, the Building is also an excellent example of the Tudor Revival style within the Grand Boulevard Community Area and Bronzeville neighborhood. The architecture of the Building embodies the character-defining features of the Tudor Revival style through its form, massing, materiality, and ornamentation. Inspired by Medieval castles, the form and massing create a sense of monumentality through an emphasis on verticality. The monochromatic red brick façade creates a sense of permanence and stability desired by the steadfast congregation. The brick façade is

then juxtaposed against the reserved use of intricately carved limestone ornamentation which reflects an embodiment of motifs of the Tudor Revival style; and,

WHEREAS, the Building was designed by Ecklund, Fugard & Knapp, an architectural firm that only practiced for three years. In that short time, they designed many notable buildings in the city, including multiple Methodist churches and the development of many apartment buildings in the Streeterville neighborhood; and,

WHEREAS, the Building represents the early work of prolific Chicago architect John Reed Fugard, Sr. Over a six-decade career, Fugard worked on some of the city's most recognizable buildings, including the Moody Memorial Church, Trustees System Service Building, and the Jeweler's Building; and,

WHEREAS, the Building meets three criteria for landmark designation set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1), (4) and (5) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code, the Building has significant historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value, the integrity of which is preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ability to express such historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value; and,

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2026, the Commission adopted a resolution recommending to the City Council of the City of Chicago (the "City Council") that the Building be designated a Chicago Landmark; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are hereby adopted as the findings of the City Council.

SECTION 2. The Building is hereby designated a Chicago Landmark in accordance with Section 2-120-700 of the Municipal Code.

SECTION 3. For purposes of Sections 2-120-740 and 2-120-770 of the Municipal Code governing permit review, the significant historical and architectural features of the Building are identified as:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the Building.
- The education wing constructed in approximately 1961 as an addition to the Building, and as depicted in Exhibit B, attached hereto, is specifically excluded from the significant historical and architectural features of the Building.

SECTION 4. The Commission is hereby directed to create a suitable plaque appropriately identifying the Building as a Chicago Landmark.

SECTION 5. If any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. All ordinances, resolutions, motions or orders in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and approval.