

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The neighborhood known as Victorian Village, bounded by Poplar Avenue, Manassas, Madison Avenue and Danny Thomas Blvd. has a nationally recognized collection of 19th century homes including the Mallory-Neely House Museum, The Woodruff-Fontaine House Museum and ten other structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These historic structures are significant to the history of the City and the core of our heritage tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, One historic mansion, located at 690 Adams Avenue and known as the James Lee House, has been owned by the City of Memphis since 1929. It was deeded to the City by a Donation Deed to house the Memphis College of Arts, formerly known as the Memphis Academy of Arts; and

WHEREAS, The Memphis Academy of Arts vacated the James Lee House in 1959 to relocate to a building now known as Rust Hall in Overton Park. The James Lee house has been vacant since that time. It is now in danger of being lost to neglect. The Memphis City Council agrees that the loss of the house, designated by the Library of Congress as an important national landmark, would be a loss for future generations. This body acknowledges that the Tennessee Preservation Trust has placed the James Lee House on its list of the ten most endangered landmarks in the state; and

WHEREAS, A special committee reviewing the Request for Proposals is comprised of members of the following organizations: Victorian Village, Inc., the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, Memphis Landmarks Commission, Division of General Services, Housing and Community Development and Center City Commission; and The members of this committee have met and agreed that the house should be restored and placed into adaptive reuse to preserve this important architectural treasure; and

WHEREAS, Memphis Center City Development Corporation has acted as the transactional agent for the James Lee House and surrounding property (the “Property”) and issued a Request for Proposals to ultimately place the restoration and adaptive reuse with a private development company; and

WHEREAS, the special committee reviewing the Request for Proposals has selected James Lee House, LLC as developer of the Property.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this City Council approves the, “James Lee House – Bed & Breakfast” proposal as recommend by the special committee, and, in that connection, hereby authorizes the Mayor of the City of Memphis to sell the property for \$1 to the Developer, James Lee House, LLC, and execute such documents that may be necessary for the sale of the Property to James Lee House, LLC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby recognizes the sale of the property is for the public benefit.

LEE HARRIS
Councilman