

THE “**REST IN PEACE OR RACISM IN PROGRESS?**” PETITION

WHEREAS, having been founded in 1902, Historic Eden Cemetery in Collingdale, PA (right outside of Philadelphia) is America’s oldest Black public cemetery with nearly 100,000 interments,

WHEREAS, such luminary African American heroes as William Still (father of the Underground Railroad), Marian Anderson (operatic superstar and humanitarian), Reverend Dr. Charles Tindley (father of gospel music), Octavius Catto (19th century voting rights martyr), Christopher Perry (founder of the Philadelphia Tribune), and Jerome Bacon (founder of Historic Eden Cemetery), as well as numerous other well-known Philadelphia-area African Americans such as the MOVE children and little-known but important Philadelphia-area African Americans such as many family members, many relatives, and many friends of thousands of Philadelphia-area residents are buried there,

WHEREAS, Historic Eden Cemetery was first victimized by racism when an angry white mob violently blockaded the entrance during the cemetery’s 1902 grand opening, thereby turning away Black residents from Philadelphia who had attempted to bury the remains of loved ones,

WHEREAS, Historic Eden Cemetery has been repeatedly victimized by racism from 1902 through recent years when whites engaged in desecration such as gravesite defecation and urination, headstone racist graffiti spray-paint, the overturning of more than 200 headstones, sex and drug parties, motorcycle racing, arsons, and the shooting death of the guard dog, and

WHEREAS, Historic Eden Cemetery is in urgent need of an effective security fence costing at least \$100,000,

WE, the undersigned men, women, and children- who want our ancestors to **Rest In Peace** instead of being victims of **Racism In Progress**- hereby demand an immediate end to the 108 years of racist attacks on Historic Eden Cemetery and we also agree to donate whatever financial assistance we can (at some point in the very near future) to help pay for a much needed security fence:

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