Proposed Bethel A. M. E. Church
Cor. Larrabee and McMillen Sts.

PORTLAND. OREGON, December 3rd, 1918

Hon. George L. Baker,
Mayor
City Hall
City.

Dear Sir: --

On January 1st, 1919 will mark the three hundred anniversary of the landing of the first ship load of Negroes on the shores of this continent. The progress made by the Race in those three hundred years have been wonderful. The Negroes throughout the United States are going to celebrate on that day their progress, and in accord with the 12,000,000 Negroes in this country, we the more than 2500 Negroes of Portland are planning a celebration showing our progress and achievement.

As chairman of the citizens committee, I am asking your cooperation and moral support in every way possible to make this occasion worthy of the fair name of our Great City and State.

Realising the part the Negroes have played in the History of this Nation, and the great sacrifices we like others have made in this great World-War, efforts are being made to secure companies of our men to appear in the parade, these men will doubtless be sent from near-by camps where they are located at present.

In addition to the parade, plans are in progress for a large public meeting when address will be delivered by prominent Colored citizens who have been invited to speak. To this end, we are asking the use of the City Auditorium for the occasion.

In whatever way you can contribute to the success of this occasion, will be appreciated by us your constituency,

Very sincerely yours,

Chairman Citizens Committee
Ter-Centenary Jubilee Celebration

REV. JNO. B. ST. FELIX ISAACS, M. A., B. D. PASTOR

PARSONAGE 208 McMillen Street
PHONE EAST 1107

GEO. L. BAKER
MAYOR

Received
DEC. 5, 1918

GEO. L. BAKER
MAYOR
Mr. Jno. B. Issacs,
208 McMillon Street,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of December 3d, will say that you may count on my fullest cooperation in making your celebration on January 1st a success. I will do whatever I can and whatever you wish me to do to assist.

As regards the use of the Public Auditorium, I will say that I can make no promises at this time inasmuch as the building is still a hospital with about seventy-five patients. We hope to have the building clear by January 1st, but there is nothing certain about it and will not be for at least two weeks. I would suggest that you make an effort to arrange for some other place. Should the Auditorium be available you can change your plans.

Yours very truly,

MAYOR