

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the Lexington Opera House on its 140th anniversary as
2 a Lexington cultural landmark.

3 WHEREAS, construction began on the new Lexington Opera House in June 1886
4 after a fire destroyed the previous structure; and

5 WHEREAS, the Lexington Opera House was designed by renowned theatrical
6 architect Oscar Cobb and constructed by H. L. Rowe;

7 WHEREAS, on July 19, 1887, the Lexington Opera House officially opened its
8 doors and hosted a concert by the Cincinnati Symphony, and just one month later, on
9 August 29, the theater offered its first dramatic event, *Our Angel*, starring Lizzie Evans;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the Lexington Opera House was heralded as "one of the costliest,
12 handsomest, and most convenient Thespian temples in the South" and "an object of
13 cherished pride in the city"; and

14 WHEREAS, over the past 140 years, the Lexington Opera House has attracted
15 legendary performers such as Al Jolson, W.C. Fields, Harry Houdini, and the Marx
16 Brothers; and

17 WHEREAS, the Lexington Opera House has stood the test of time and is one of
18 only 14 theaters in the United States built before 1900 that remains in operation today;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the Lexington Opera House was listed on the National Register of
21 Historic Places in 1975 for its architectural and historical significance; and

22 WHEREAS, on the verge of demolition, the Opera House Fund was formed and
23 spearheaded renovation efforts, leading to the Lexington Opera House's reopening on
24 May 7, 1976, featuring a performance from the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra and
25 violin virtuoso Eugene Fodor; and

26 WHEREAS, beginning on Sunday, May 10, 2026, the Lexington Opera House is
27 presenting, BRAVOH!, a three-part special event to commemorate 140 years and

1 celebrate the 50-year anniversary of its historic reopening, headlined by the premier event
2 from three-time Tony award-winner Bernadette Peters; and

3 WHEREAS, since its opening in 1886, the Opera House has stood as a symbol of
4 Lexington's cultural spirit, welcoming generations of audiences to experience the magic
5 of live performance; and

6 WHEREAS, the Lexington Opera House is celebrating 140 years of bringing
7 world-class performances and unforgettable memories to Lexington;

8 NOW, THEREFORE,

9 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
10 ***Kentucky:***

11 ➔Section 1. The Senate honors the Lexington Opera House on its 140th
12 anniversary as a Lexington cultural landmark.

13 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this
14 Resolution to Senator Reginald Thomas for delivery.