A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the legacy of Drexel Catholic High School; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, The Most Reverend Francis E. Hyland, the Bishop of the Roman Catholic
3 Diocese of Atlanta, from 1956-1961, decided to open a high school for the purpose of
4 providing quality education for African-American Catholic and non-Catholic students; and

5 WHEREAS, the trustees of the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities, Inc., in
6 Wilmington, Delaware, generously granted the diocese the funds for the new school; and

7 WHEREAS, the school was erected at 631 Harwell Road, NW, on a property that was
8 formally owned by the Medical Mission Sisters; and

9 WHEREAS, the school was built by Van Winkle and Company of Atlanta, and named in
10 honor of Mother Mary Katherine Drexel, founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament,
11 and a pioneer in the work of interracial justice; and

12 WHEREAS, Drexel Catholic High School was built to accommodate 300 students, and when
13 it opened in September 1961, it started with a freshman class of 33 students; and

14 WHEREAS, a grade was added each year until they reached a complete four-year high
15 school, and in June of 1965, enrollment was 122, and the school graduated its first senior
16 class; and

17 WHEREAS, on September 23, 1962, the Most Reverend Paul J. Hallinan, the Archbishop
18 of Atlanta, dedicated the building, and the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the Sisters of the Most
19 Blessed Sacrament were the original members of the faculty, including Sister Mary Donatus,
20 S.S.J., Sister Maureen Patricia, S.B.S., and Sister Mary Francois, S.B.S.; and
WHEREAS, the Archdiocese saw that it was not feasible for enrollment to grow, from other segments of Atlanta, in order for the school to become large enough to fully provide the highest quality education envisioned, so the school was closed in June of 1967 after graduating only three senior classes; and

WHEREAS, although the school closed, Drexel students and faculty members share a special kinship, and the alumni have worked diligently to organize and contribute their legacy to the archives of the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body recognize the legacy of Drexel Catholic High School, which will serve as a resource and inspiration to all in the unique achievements and history of African Americans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the press.