

2013-J1107

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating The Reverend Clarence Norman, Sr. of the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights, New York, upon the occasion of his 60th Pastoral Anniversary

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate The Reverend Clarence Norman, Sr. of the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights, New York, upon the occasion of his 60th Pastoral Anniversary, to be celebrated on Saturday, April 6, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The First Baptist Church was founded on April 30, 1953, for the purpose of proclaiming a gospel message relevant to a man's need in a changing society; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Clarence Norman, Sr. of the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights, New York, has brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; and

WHEREAS, The First Baptist Church of Crown Heights, New York, was organized in 1953 as the First Baptist Church of Williamsburg; one of the first acts of this founding church was to duly ordain The Reverend Clarence Norman, Sr. as Pastor; and

WHEREAS, As a result of 60 years of faithful and dedicated service by

The Reverend Clarence Norman, Sr. the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights, New York, consists of a congregation of more than 2,000 members; and

WHEREAS, A multifaceted and caring individual with extensive training and commitment in areas that affect the community, The Reverend Clarence Norman, Sr., in addition to his service as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights, New York, also serves as a Protestant Chaplain for the State of New York Division of Parole; in the past, he has also served as: Chaplain for the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation; Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Center for Law and Social Justice of Medgar Evers College; Chairman of the Orange Housing Authority, Orange, New Jersey; and Chairman of the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights Housing and Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, In addition, in 1987 Reverend Norman founded the Local Development Corporation of Crown Heights; through the Local Development Corporation, he has helped develop more than 800 units of housing for senior citizens and low income families; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Clarence Norman, Sr. received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1959 from Bloomfield College, Bloomfield, New Jersey; he holds both a Master of Divinity degree and Doctor of Religion degree from Howard University, Washington, D.C.; he also attended St. John's University, Jamaica, New York, for Graduate Study in Public School

Administration; he was awarded State Certification as Principal of Secondary School in 1969; and

WHEREAS, Because of his deep commitment to the youth of the community, The Reverend Clarence Norman, Sr. has served as Director of the John Edward Bruce Day Care Center, and as a teacher of Social Studies, Dean, and Assistant Principal of the Whitelaw Reid Junior High School, Brooklyn, New York; he also was a teacher of Social Studies at the Nathaniel Macon Junior High School; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his professional achievements and education, The Reverend Clarence Norman, Sr. has received numerous special awards and honors, including the 1969-1970 Parish Ministry Fellowship by the Fund for Theological Education, Princeton, New Jersey; he is the Recipient of the First Annual Ecumenical Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews; in addition, he is certified as an accredited Resident Manager by the Institute for Real Estate Management; in June 2002,

EBONY MAGAZINE honored The Reverend Clarence Norman, Sr. as a "Great Black Father" at an awards luncheon for distinguished fathers and sons who have followed in their paths; and

WHEREAS, Born on April 30, 1930, in Goldsboro, North Carolina, The Reverend Clarence Norman, Sr. and his lovely wife, Ellen, are the proud parents of five children; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate The Reverend Clarence Norman, Sr. of the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights, New York, upon the occasion of his 60th Pastoral Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Clarence Norman, Sr., Senior Pastor, The First Baptist Church of Crown Heights, New York.