

## 2023-J2561

Senate Resolution No. 2561

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING The Reverend Doctor Darren M. Morton  
upon the occasion of his 13th Pastoral Anniversary  
on May 19, 2024

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

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 commend The  
Reverend Doctor Darren M. Morton upon the occasion of his 13th Pastoral  
Anniversary which was celebrated at Macedonia Baptist Church in Mount  
Vernon, New York, on Sunday, May 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, At Macedonia Baptist Church, Reverend Doctor Darren M.  
Morton received his religious conversion and baptism, later becoming the  
seventh pastor and religious leader of the church; under the guidance of  
Reverend Doctor Richard H. Dixon, Jr., he was led to assume the pulpit  
in 1994 and ordained three years later; and

WHEREAS, During a period of transition, Reverend Doctor Darren M. Morton accepted the request to serve as Interim Pastor in 2009; presently, he continues to minister through Vacation Bible School and other church programs; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Doctor Darren M. Morton performed his duties as Associate Minister and Youth Minister for 15 years, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, and Executive Director of the Macedonia Baptist Church Mentoring Program; and

WHEREAS, Through his background in business, fiscal management, strategic planning, and information systems, Reverend Doctor Darren M. Morton has transformed Macedonia Baptist Church, which struggled with waning membership, fiscal distress, and a pending balloon mortgage payment in 2011, into a thriving congregation, solid business operation, and a financially stable and burgeoning faith-based enterprise; and

WHEREAS, Other enhancements made to Macedonia Baptist Church include a modernized fiscal operation, membership information system, and capital campaign; additionally, refinanced mortgages and expanded community services were possible under the capable leadership of Reverend Doctor Darren M. Morton; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Doctor Darren M. Morton continually labors to strengthen families and enhance the well-being of individuals of all nationalities, and he is immersed in civic and social endeavors which specifically affect urban communities and the underprivileged of all ages; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Doctor Darren M. Morton, the esteemed Pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, 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, whether in the church, his community, an educational setting, the public sector, or a boardroom; 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; Reverend Doctor Darren M. Morton should be saluted for his selfless service to his community and to our great State and his outstanding contributions in his holy mission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend The Reverend Doctor Darren M. Morton upon the occasion of his 13th Pastoral Anniversary, noting his unrelenting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community, and extending to him the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Doctor Darren M. Morton.