

2023-J2602

Senate Resolution No. 2602

BY: Senator PARKER

HONORING Reverend Dr. James A. Thornton upon the occasion of his 18th Pastoral Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those individuals within the State of New York who give of their time and energies in support of spiritual endeavors which aim to benefit the community at large; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Reverend Dr. James A. Thornton upon the occasion of his 18th Pastoral Anniversary, celebrated on Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 305 East 21st Street in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Attaining a wealth of knowledge, Reverend Dr. James A. Thornton graduated from Fordham University and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree; he then furthered his education and attended Fordham's Graduate School of Business; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. James A. Thornton received his Master of Divinity Degree from New York Theological Seminary and his Doctorate of Divinity Degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio; the thesis for his doctoral degree in Urban Ministry was "The Church Bridging the Gap Between Public School and Community"; and

WHEREAS, Answering the call to ministry on October 18, 1987, Reverend Dr. James A. Thornton delivered his trial sermon titled "I Am Not Ashamed" before a congregation of the faithful; in 1988, he was ordained to the ministry and accepted the position of Assistant to the Pastor at the Salem Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, In February of 1999, Reverend Dr. James A. Thornton was unanimously elected Co-Pastor and successor, and in May 1999, he was officially installed at the Salem Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, On May 1, 2006, on the retirement of Pastor Boyd, after 45 years of faithful service, Reverend Dr. James A. Thornton assumed the mantle of leadership as the sixth Pastor of the Salem Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Devout in his faith and service, Reverend Dr. James A. Thornton stands as the Director and Reorganizer of Salem's Afterschool Enrichment Center, prioritizing the adage of the Negro College Fund; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to educating youth in the community, Reverend Dr. James A. Thornton is currently an Adjunct Professor of Ethics at New York Theological Seminary and an instructor for the National Baptist Convention Congress of Christian Education; and

WHEREAS, As a graduate of the Lott Carey Convention's Pastoral Excellence Program, Reverend Dr. James A. Thornton has brought the Christian witness to the mission fields of Guyana, Jamaica, and South Africa, and he has partnered with the Philadelphia-based 300 Chosen

Ministries, in the preaching and teaching of God's word on foreign shores; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. James A. Thornton 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, 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 honor Reverend Dr. James A. Thornton upon the occasion of his 18th Pastoral Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Dr. James A. Thornton.