

## 2009-J345

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Bishop Lionel Harvey upon the occasion of his 10th Anniversary with the First Baptist Cathedral of Westbury, to be celebrated on February 20, 2009

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 commend Bishop Lionel Harvey upon the occasion of his 10th Anniversary with the First Baptist Cathedral of Westbury, to be celebrated on February 20, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The oldest son of Deacon and Deaconess Calvin and Deloris Harvey, Bishop Lionel Harvey was born in Brooklyn, New York and grew up in Lakeview, Long Island, where his athletic ability and basketball skills earned him the title of "All American" and led to a scholarship at the University of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, After serving faithfully as an Associate Minister at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Rockville Center, New York under Pastor Herman Washington, Bishop Lionel Harvey was named Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Westbury, now called First Baptist Cathedral of Westbury, in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Bishop Lionel Harvey the Westbury New Cassel Community has experienced revitalization and transformation in several spiritual, social, academic and economic areas; and

WHEREAS, Specifically, First Baptist Cathedral of Westbury has experienced incredible membership growth, both spiritually and numerically; now offers two Sunday morning worship services; provides a full service soup kitchen and pantry and a community vacation camp; and has a tutorial program, a prison ministry, a radio and television ministry, as well as several other outreach ministries; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Bishop Lionel Harvey serves as President of the Unified New Cassel Community Revitalization Corporation, a not-for-profit community development organization which has given residents in the region a meaningful say in the revitalization of their community; and

WHEREAS, As the Presiding Prelate of the Sword of the Spirit Christian Fellowship Inc., Bishop Lionel Harvey has galvanized churches worldwide to pool their resources for making an even greater spiritual, economic, educational and social impact in their communities; and

WHEREAS, The 2007 recipient of the New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award, Bishop Lionel Harvey also sits on the Board of Managers of the Eastern Baptist Association, New York Incorporated and serves on the National Board of Religious Affairs of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Inducted into the Office of Bishop in 2006, Bishop Lionel Harvey's Theological Education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies from the College at New Rochelle; a Master's of Divinity degree from New York Theological Seminary; and a Doctorate of Divinity degree from the Apex School of Theology in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, With Bishop Lionel Harvey throughout have been his three children, Lionel Matthew, Tatyana Victoria and Dominique Brianna, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Lionel Harvey 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, 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 commend Bishop Lionel Harvey upon the occasion of his 10th Anniversary with the First Baptist Cathedral of Westbury, to be celebrated on February 20, 2009, 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 Bishop Lionel Harvey.