

## 2009-J4625

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending The Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson upon the occasion of his 35th Anniversary to be celebrated on Tuesday, April 13, 2010

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 The Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson upon the occasion of his 35th Anniversary to be celebrated on Tuesday, April 13, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson is the Senior Pastor of the historic Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, New York; he has been the leader of this vibrant, diverse, multi-staffed ministry since April 1975; under his esteemed leadership, the congregation has grown to more than 4000 members and in 2003, the ministry was expanded to Port St. Lucie, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Prior to coming to New York, Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson was Pastor of Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church, located in Richmond, Virginia, and St. James Baptist Church in Varina, Virginia, concurrently from 1969 until 1975; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Virginia Union University, Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson received his Divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School and his Doctorate of Ministry as a Wyatt Tee Walker Fellow from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson has received many honors for his extraordinary leadership in ministry including the Doctor of Divinity from his alma mater, Virginia Union University and several other colleges and universities; in 1989, he was inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr., Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, A community builder and organizer for decades, Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson has played a pivotal role in the grass root efforts of reestablishing a cultural bridge between community and education; he has been involved in the brick and mortar realities of housing development and is singularly responsible for leveling the ground by fighting for equitable opportunities in public education in the Mount Vernon community; his insightful guidance is responsible for two Grace Church related Community Development Corporations; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson served as General Secretary for 12 years of the 8 million member National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.; this experience led him to the international arena of the World Council of Churches, where he served on its prestigious Central Committee; the World Council represents more than 400 million Christians in 150 nations; and

WHEREAS, In addition Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson served on the Boards of the Congress of the National Black Churches, the National Urban League, and the Constituency for Africa; a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, he is also a member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished theologian is an internationally sought after preacher, lecturer and facilitator, having preached on several continents; for the past 30 years, Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson has

been heard throughout the tri-state area on WVOX radio and is viewed on national television every Sunday morning; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson is the author of

the widely acclaimed, POWER OF THE PEW, and has written several extensive articles on faith-based community developments, of note: "Mission to Mandate" in the NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE'S: STATE OF BLACK AMERICA; a published preacher as well, his sermons can be found in publications including KEEP THE FAITH, by Welcome Rain Publishers, and JOY TO THE WORLD, by Simon & Schuster; and

WHEREAS, A man of intuitive reason and an incisive mind, Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson demonstrates in his persona, the marvelous union of passion and intellect; he is a national advocate for economic equity and his counsel and advice is widely solicited in several major corporate boardrooms throughout America; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson serves on the Boards of the Institute of Church Administration and Management at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ICAM) in Atlanta, Georgia; Pepsi Cola Ethic Advisory Board; the Ujamaa Community Development Corporation; the Harvard University Divinity School Summer Leadership Institute for Church-based Community and Economic Development; and the Black Equity Alliance of New York; he is also the Chairman of the Board of the National Action Network and a Trustee of Virginia Union University; and WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Inez Nunnally Richardson, their two children, and their four grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson 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 Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson upon the occasion of his 35th 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 Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson.