

2009-J4856

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 111th Anniversary of St. Philip's Episcopal Church of Brooklyn, New York

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 111th Anniversary of St. Philip's Episcopal Church of Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, In honor of this most auspicious occasion, the Senior Choir will present Handel's "Messiah" Parts II and III on Sunday, May 2, 2010; and

WHEREAS, St. Philip's Episcopal Church was founded in 1899, and held its first service in a vacant store at 1887 Pacific Avenue in the Weeksville area of Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Soon after, a church site at 1610 Dean Street was acquired; membership in the mission chapel quickly rose to 500 people, many of whom had roots in Virginia, North Carolina and the Caribbean, and the parishioners began programs and activities which appealed to community residents; and

WHEREAS, Many of these particular programs and activities created include: the first charter for a Black chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew that was issued to St. Philip's in 1903; the first Black company of the United Boys Brigade, a forerunner of the Boy Scouts, was chartered in 1907; and one of the earliest Boy Scout charters given to any organization was granted to St. Philip's in 1921; and

WHEREAS, St. Philip's attained parish status in 1926; in 1944, it moved to its present building, a neo-Gothic edifice accommodating 900 people which was designed by Arni Delhi in 1899 for Good Shepherd Episcopal Church; it is located in the Stuyvesant Heights Historical District and was designated by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1971; and

WHEREAS, In 1945, the Stuyvesant Community Center was established in the adjoining parish house, becoming the first community center in Bedford-Stuyvesant run by and for Blacks; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the faithful leadership of Reverend Carver W. Israel, St. Philip's continues to provide leadership in the religious, social, cultural and economic life of the community; and

WHEREAS, St. Philip's Episcopal Church stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 111th Anniversary of St. Philip's Episcopal Church of Brooklyn, New York, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Carver W. Israel, Rector, St. Philip's Episcopal Church of Brooklyn, New York.