

## 2015-J3744

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending The Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Whitney upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 30 years of distinguished service to the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York

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 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 Dr. Curtis L. Whitney upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 30 years of distinguished service to the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, A native of Ivor, Virginia, where he grew up a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Curtis L. Whitney proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army and was an honor graduate of the Southampton County Training School; and

WHEREAS, Curtis L. Whitney later earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Queens College, and completed a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary, as well as a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University in 1991; and

WHEREAS, In September of 1984, The Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Whitney answered the call to become Senior Pastor of the Mount Sinai Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Prior to joining Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, this esteemed man served as Pastor of the St. John Baptist Church, and in several posi-

tions of leadership in the community including Chairman of the Three Counties Action Program, and Secretary of the Nassau County Black Clergy Association; and

WHEREAS, In addition, The Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Whitney was employed as Senior Management Specialist for the American Express Company for 21 years; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Whitney 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, Dedicated to helping his community, The Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Whitney is the President of the Quincy Community Services Development Corporation, Co-Founder and President of the Association of Brooklyn Clergy for Community Development, past-President of Mt. Sinai Credit Union, a life member of NAACP, and a member of the Hampton University Ministers Conference; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he has served in such capacities as President of the School of Religion for the Eastern Baptist Association, Clergy for Community Development, and Instructor at the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, as well as Pastor and Founder of Brooklyn Congregations Together; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Whitney is responsible for many community outreach programs including the Mt. Sinai Liturgical Dance Ministry, chemical addiction programs, after school care, youth ministries, and weekly Bible Study and Prayer Services; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this esteemed man has established programs of Christian Education and leadership throughout the United States, and has

used his broad knowledge and abilities to cultivate and nurture local churches and communities in the spirit of service and positive change; 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, With him throughout have been his wife, Ruth, and their three children, Heide, Monique, and the late Keith, as well as three grandchildren, Janika, Matthew and Kennedy, all of whom are proud to be part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when religious leaders of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend The Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Whitney of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York, upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 30 years of distinguished service to the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, and to wish him all the best in his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Whitney.