

2023-J1316

Senate Resolution No. 1316

BY: Senator PARKER

HONORING The Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman upon the occasion of celebrating his 21st 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 The Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman upon the occasion of celebrating his 21st Pastoral Anniversary on February 26, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Robert M. Waterman, known to many as Pastor Rob, previously served as the Associate Pastor and Youth Pastor at Union Baptist Church in White Plains, New York under the pastoral guidance of Reverends Robert L. Mason and Verlin D. Williams; and

WHEREAS, Currently serving as Lead Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, Rev. Dr. Robert M. Waterman is credited with many notable achievements in relation to the betterment of the church and his community as a whole; for example, he brought about new seats in the balcony, a large influx of youth to fill them, an after-school homework program, and the revival of the Wednesday night Bible study; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Robert M. Waterman graduated from New York Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in May of 2003, and went on to complete his Doctor of Ministry from Drew University in May of 2009; since his installation, he has worked closely with the Youth Ministry, established leadership classes and retreats, re-instituted the Christian Education Ministry, spearheaded the purchase of a state-of-the-art sound system in the sanctuary, and revived the Antioch Community Services for youth and seniors; and

WHEREAS, In demonstration of his unrelenting service and devotion to his community, Rev. Dr. Robert M. Waterman purchased a building in the community which now houses a Christian lounge; he also serves as a substitute teacher in the New York public school system, and serves on Community Board 3 as the Ecumenical Committee Chairman, and formerly was the Chairperson of the Transportation Committee; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Robert M. Waterman is a member of the National Black Commission on AIDS and the Chair of the "Securing our Institutions" component of the Black Empowerment Convention; he is also the Ecumenical Chair of the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (BLCA) in Brooklyn, New York, and is President of the African American Clergy and Elected Officials (AACEO) in Brooklyn, as well as a lifetime member of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Robert M. Waterman is proud of the many renovations and updates he has brought to the church throughout his tenure; some changes he oversaw include painting, restoring and covering pews, installing new carpeting, the marbleizing of columns, and renovation of the room that houses several ministries, such as Sunday school classes and the after-school program; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, a restoration project was done to the Antioch Baptist Fellowship Hall, which is a multi-purpose use room for conferences and dining purposes; this project included painting and new lighting; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Robert M. Waterman is the author of the book, God Has Left the Building; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his beloved wife, Lady Lola Oguntunde, and their cherished children, Nia, Imani, and Jada, all of whom privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; 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 The Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman upon the occasion of celebrating his 21st Pastoral Anniversary on February 26, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rev. Dr. Robert M. Waterman.