

2013-J3793

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending The Reverend Russell T. Marquis of Shiloh Baptist Church of Jamaica, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating his 10th Anniversary of service

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 Reverend Russell Marquis, of Shiloh Baptist Church of Jamaica, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating his 10th Anniversary of service; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Russell T. Marquis is the fourth of five children born to Jennie and the late Rudolph B. Marquis in the Bronx, New York; he attended New York City public schools, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at Iona College, New Rochelle, New York, and a Master of Divinity degree in Theology at Drew University Theological School, Madison, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Russell T. Marquis was baptized at Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Bronx, New York, in April 1986; he served as an Associate Minister at Mount Carmel, under the pastorate of The Reverend Anthony Lowe, before moving on to Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Marquis answered the call to ministry in 1991; he preached his trial sermon on January 14, 1996, and was fully ordained to the gospel on July 26, 1998, by the United Missionary Baptist Associ-

ation, National Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, In August 1996, Reverend Russell T. Marquis was invited by Senior Pastor Dr. Gary V. Simpson to serve as a student minister at Concord Baptist Church; he endeared himself to the congregation and was asked to stay on as Associate Pastor, Youth Pastor and Administrative Pastor from 1998 to 2004; and

WHEREAS, In March 2004, Shiloh Baptist Church of Jamaica, the oldest African-American Baptist congregation in Jamaica, New York, extended the call to pastor to Reverend Russell T. Marquis; he accepted and, on September 26, 2004, was installed as Shiloh Baptist Church of Jamaica's eighth pastor in 133 years of ministry; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Russell T. Marquis 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, As pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church of Jamaica, Reverend Russell T. Marquis has implemented several ministries to better serve the church: he created a gender-inclusive deaconate ministry, ordaining deaconesses and deacons, launched a Youth Summit, and initiated a church-wide 40 Days of Purpose campaign; he also led many workshops, including a Deacons and Trustees Leadership Retreat, a Church-wide Leadership Workshop, and a Strategic Planning Ministry Workshop; and

WHEREAS, Under Reverend Russell T. Marquis's guidance, significant enhancements have been made to the church building; a wheelchair lift and a stair lift were installed for greater physical accessibility, the church pews were refurbished, and a portable baptismal pool was acquired, allowing baptism to take place in the sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his outstanding work as pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church of Jamaica, Reverend Russell T. Marquis has given of his time and talents to several organizations and causes; he served as the

Financial Secretary of the Brooklyn & Long Island Baptist Pastor and Churches Union, was the Vice President of Empowered Queens United in Action and Leadership (EQUAL), a local organizing group of Metro Industrial Areas Foundation consisting of several congregations in Jamaica & Sunnyside, New York; he is also an active pastor in the Eastern Baptist Association of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., as well as a contributor to UPSCALE magazine; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Russell T. Marquis has earned recognition for his ministry gifts and work in the community; while attending Drew University he received the prestigious Steele award because of his ability to minister in a multicultural setting, and in 2003, he received the Reverend Dr. Gardner C. Taylor Community Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Russell T. Marquis has been accompanied throughout by his wife, Martrice Miles-Marquis; they are the adoring parents of six year old Julius Terence; 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 The Reverend Russell Marquis of Shiloh Baptist Church of Jamaica, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating his 10th Anniversary of service, noting his unremitting 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 The Reverend Russell T. Marquis.