

2013-J6017

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Reverend Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood upon the occasion of celebrating his 15th Anniversary as Pastor Emeritus of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church

WHEREAS, The spiritual guidance and nurturing of the citizens of the State of New York is of great importance to the vitality and well-being of our communities; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those men and women of religious commitment who accept the responsibility of moral leadership and render the wisdom of human understanding; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Reverend Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood upon the occasion of celebrating his 15th Anniversary as Pastor Emeritus of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church; this auspicious occasion was celebrated on May 31, 2014, in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood is widely recognized for his outstanding work fostering the growth of congregations and the inception of community programs; and

WHEREAS, Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, Johnny Ray Youngblood was only 12 years old when, at an area conference, the United Metropolitan Spiritual Churches of Christ awarded him a preaching license; he earned his B.A. degree in 1970 from Dillard University, and later received his Master of Divinity degree from Colgate-Rochester Theological Seminary in 1973; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, he went on to earn his Doctorate of Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, and received his Honorary Master of Divinity degree from Boston University in 1993; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood retired as Senior Pastor of the St. Paul Community Baptist Church in June of 2009, after

35 years of service; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, he was called to serve in the same capacity at Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in Bedford Stuyvesant, a role he was honored to take on in memory of one of his mentors, the late Reverend George H. Murray; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood is one of the leading theologians of his time; his commitment to the call for spiritual healing, racial parity, social justice, and economic equity for all people has garnered him national recognition as a prophet, national leader, public advocate, motivator, writer, and teacher; and

WHEREAS, Recognized on the national level as a result of his work with East Brooklyn Congregations, an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation, Reverend Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood spearheaded the Nehemiah Housing Project which has constructed approximately 2,900 owner-occupied single family homes in several devastated Brooklyn communities; he also serves as a national spokesman for the group; and

WHEREAS, The subject of the 1993 book entitled, UPON THIS ROCK: THE MIRACLES OF A BLACK CHURCH, Reverend Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood is also featured in several articles in prominent magazines, including COMMON QUEST, THE NEW YORKER, MIRABELLA, DETAILS, EMERGE, and ESSENCE; he has also been the subject of news journal programs on ABC's "20/20," the NBC "Nightly News," CBS "Sunday Morning News," Fox 5's "McCreary Live Report," and the "Charlie Rose Show"; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Reverend Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood was called by the Board of Mt. Pisgah Church in Brooklyn to assist in the stabilization and recovery of the Church, which included restoring the Mt. Pisgah Christian Academy, since renamed the George Henry Murray Academy; he was voted Senior Pastor of the Church on May 26, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood is the father of three sons, Joel Ray, Jason Royce, and Johnny Jernell; he is the loving grandfather of six grandchildren, Donna Lynn, Joshua, Jalen, Jordyn, and

Jasmine, 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 Reverend Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood upon the occasion of celebrating his 15th Anniversary as Pastor Emeritus of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood, Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York.