

## 2015-J1774

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Pastor Darius G. Pridgen upon the occasion of his consecration as a Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship at True Bethel Baptist Church in Buffalo, New York

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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Pastor Darius G. Pridgen upon the occasion of his consecration as a Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship at True Bethel Baptist Church on Friday, April 17, 2015, in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Darius G. Pridgen is a mentor, servant, community leader and organizer who serves as the Senior Pastor of True Bethel Baptist Church located in the city of Buffalo, New York; his teachings and preaching are heard worldwide through the internet as well as weekly with four services in two locations on the East side of Buffalo and Niagara Falls, New York; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Pastor Darius G. Pridgen and his congregation provide the local community with food and clothing through True Bethel Charities, Taste of Faith Food Pantry and True Bethel Clothes Closet located in "The Help Center," a renovated firehouse established to meet the needs of those in the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, Well-known for speaking out for those who are often not heard, Pastor Darius G. Pridgen, along with the True Bethel Family,

combined efforts with the community and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in an effort to clean-up a hazardous toxic waste site across the street from the church, making the area safe for residential use; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 2010, Pastor Darius G. Pridgen and his congregation were instrumental in the restoration of Michigan Street Baptist Church, a historic landmark of the Underground Railroad; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious career, Pastor Darius G. Pridgen has received countless awards and appointments such as the New York State Minorities in Criminal Justice and the "Do Something for Others Award", exemplifying the teachings and life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; he serves as the New York State Overseer for the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this esteemed man serves as the Ellicott District Common Council Member for the City of Buffalo, and is on the Board of Trustees at Medaille College; he is the recipient of the First Student Veterans Alumni Award from the Office of Veterans and Military Affairs at Medaille College, and received the 2013 Interfaith Community Leader Award from National Federation for Just Communities of WNY, Inc. for his service to all people; in January of 2014, Pastor Pridgen was elected by a unanimous vote to serve as the President of the Buffalo Common Council; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Darius G. Pridgen 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, 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 Pastor Darius G. Pridgen upon the occasion of his consecration as a Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship at True Bethel Baptist Church in Buffalo, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Pastor Darius G. Pridgen.