

BY: Senator MONTGOMERY

HONORING The Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Sojourner Truth Award by The Brooklyn Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor The Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Sojourner Truth Award by The Brooklyn Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., to be celebrated at its 51st Annual Founders' Day Observance, "Empowering Communities and Shaping Lives," on Saturday, April 28, 2018, at Gargiulo's Restaurant, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson is the Executive Pastor of The Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Growing up the sixth of seven children born to a single mother, Emma Jordan-Simpson was the beneficiary of programs like the first generation of Head Start and free after-school programs run by local churches; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently, Emma Jordan-Simpson knew from an early age that she wanted to live a life of service, preaching her first sermon at the age of 17 at House of Prayer Episcopal Church in Newark, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Emma Jordan-Simpson attended public schools in Newark and graduated from Arts High School in 1981; she went on to Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where she graduated with honors in 1985 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious and Philosophical Studies and Music; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Union Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in 1988, Emma Jordan-Simpson was ordained at the Concord Baptist Church of Christ, becoming the second woman in the church's history to be set apart for the Gospel Ministry; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary woman received a Certificate in Not-for-Profit Management, Executive Level from the Columbia Business School Institute in 1995, and earned a Doctor of Ministry Degree with distinction from Drew Theological School in 2009; and

WHEREAS, As a bi-vocational minister, Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson has combined pastoral ministry with social justice community engagement; from 2007 until 2012, she served as the Executive Director of the Children's Defense Fund, an organization which works to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to her community, Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Community Foundation, Union Theological Seminary, the Weeksville Heritage Society, and the Concord Christ Fund; she is also chair of the OCFS Brooklyn for Brooklyn Community Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, Reverend Dr. Gary V. Simpson, and their three children, Candace Yonina, David Michael and Jordan Elizabeth, who have all shown her love and support and rejoice in her many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, It has always been the objective of this Legislative Body to honor and support those individuals who have displayed their commitment to the betterment of their communities, and it is the intent of this Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records, this tribute to Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson, that future generations may know and appreciate her admirable character, her many benevolent deeds, and the respect and esteem in which she is held by her peers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor The Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Sojourner Truth Award by The Brooklyn Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson.