

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING The Reverend Dr. Robert Waterman, Pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York, upon the occasion of hosting the "Praise and Worship" Service on Sunday, February 7, 2022

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend The Reverend Dr. Robert Waterman, Pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York, upon the occasion of hosting the "Praise and Worship" Service on Sunday, February 7, 2022; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the observance of both February as Black History Month and February 7, 2022, as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, this auspicious Service will pay just tribute and salute the Antioch Baptist Church's Modern Day 2022 Historians; and

WHEREAS, The Antioch Baptist Church was a non-incorporated organization that was known to consist of Deacon George Williams, Deacon Clarence Johnson, Sister Lillian Johnson, Reverend Benne Baker, Sister Mary Hall, Sister Mamie Travis, Sister Eva Bryant, Sister Rosa Franklin, and Sister Hollen Jackson; and

WHEREAS, These members sought leadership at a time when the Black contribution of the "City of Churches" began to be felt through the proliferation and growth of Black churches in Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, It was then Reverend Moses Prophet Paylor, D.D., (1877-1958), a native of Mebane, North Carolina, was called; this zealous minister is credited with founding and organizing the Antioch Baptist Church in 1918; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman graduated from New York Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in May of 2003 and received his Doctorate of Ministry from Drew University in May of 2009; and

WHEREAS, He served as the Associate Pastor and Youth Pastor at Union Baptist Church in White Plains, New York; he brought many gifts to the Antioch Baptist Church, the most notable being his exuberance of youth, a willingness to get the job done, and ebullient spirituality; and

WHEREAS, By the time of his official installation in February of

2002, Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman had already been hard at work at the Church since November 4, 2001; this was evidenced by new seats in the balcony, a large influx of youth to fill them, an after-school homework program, and revival of the Wednesday night Bible study; and

WHEREAS, Today, Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman continues to expound his ministry of "Restoring Life by Destroying the Barriers . . ." (Ephesians 2:14) that separate Christians from each other and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, Under the divine guidance of Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman, the Antioch Baptist Church stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals and events of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend The Reverend Dr. Robert Waterman, Pastor of the Antioch Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York, upon the occasion of hosting the "Praise and Worship" Service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Dr. Robert Waterman, Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York,