

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING The Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman
upon the occasion of his 20th Pastoral Anniversary
to be celebrated on February 27, 2022

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, 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 M. Waterman upon the occasion of his 20th Pastoral Anniversary to be celebrated on Sunday, February 27, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman, affectionately known as Pastor Rob, has served Antioch Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York since his installation in February of 2002; and

WHEREAS, Since his installation, Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman has worked closely with the Youth Ministry, established leadership classes and retreats, re-instituted the Christian Education Ministry, spearheaded the purchase of a state-of-the-art sound system in the sanctuary, and revived the Antioch Community Services for youth and seniors; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman has brought many gifts to his congregation, most notably his exuberance of youth, a willingness to get the job done, and ebullient spirituality; he was also instrumental in the magnificent renovation of the sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, Spiritually, Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman has been labeled "The Preacher of Thunder," encouraging his congregation to know, praise and worship God so their hearts and lives can be truly changed; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, each year of his extraordinary 20-year pastorate, approximately 100 people have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and have become a part of the Antioch Baptist Church family; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his illustrious career as Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman serves as a substitute teacher in the New York public school system, truly enhancing the quality of the educational programs and opportunities offered to local

youth; he also authored the book **God Has Left the Building**; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman serves on Community Board 3 and as the former Chairperson of the Transportation Committee as well as the current Ecumenical Committee Chairman; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, he is a member of the National Black Commission on AIDS and the Chair of the "Securing our Institutions" component of the Black Empowerment Convention; he also serves as the Ecumenical Chair of the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (BLCA) in Brooklyn, New York, President of the African American Clergy and Elected Officials (AACEO) in Brooklyn, and a lifetime member of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Robert M. Waterman graduated from New York Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in May of 2003; he went on to earn his Doctor of Ministry from Drew University in May of 2009; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his loving wife, Lady Lola Oguntunde, and their three beautiful children, Nia Folasade, Imani Oyinlola and Jada Simisola, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman 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 custom 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. Robert M. Waterman, noting his unrelenting 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 Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman.