

**BY:** Senator KENNEDY

**MOURNING** the tragic and untimely death of Ruth E. Whitfield, devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and distinguished member of her community

**WHEREAS,** There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, have served to better the quality of life in our community and have had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Ruth E. Whitfield was one such individual; and

**WHEREAS,** It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Ruth E. Whitfield, noting the significance of her purposeful life and accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS,** Ruth E. Whitfield of Buffalo, New York, died on Saturday, May 14, 2022, in the devastating act of violence which took place at the Tops Friendly Market on historic Jefferson Avenue; she was 86 years old; and

**WHEREAS,** A woman of indomitable faith and dedication, Ruth E. Whitfield was a longtime parishioner at Durham Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church where she sang in the choir; and

**WHEREAS,** While she was passionate about many things, above all her greatest passion was spending time with her beloved family; and

**WHEREAS,** Ruth E. Whitfield is survived by her soulmate of 68 years, Garnell W. Whitfield, Sr.; her children, Robin Harris (Philip), Garnell Whitfield, Jr. (Cassietta), Angela Crawley (Melvin) and Raymond A. Whitfield; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren; seven siblings; and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews; and

**WHEREAS,** Ruth E. Whitfield's infinite selflessness and benevolence will shine on through her family's vivid and happy memories; her insight and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love, light and hope to the countless lives she touched; and

**WHEREAS,** Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Ruth E. Whitfield leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing woman; she will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the tragic and untimely death of Ruth E. Whitfield, and to express its deepest condolences to her family; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Ruth E. Whitfield.