

BY: Senator MAYER

HONORING Reverend Dr. Edward O. Williamson upon
the occasion of his 20th Pastoral Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those individuals within the State of New York who give of their time and energies in support of spiritual endeavors which aim to benefit the community at large; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Reverend Dr. Edward O. Williamson upon the occasion of his 20th Pastoral Anniversary, to be celebrated on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at Bethel Baptist Church's 20th Pastoral Anniversary Luncheon at Mansion on Broadway, White Plains, New York; and

WHEREAS, Serving as the pastor-teacher of Bethel Baptist Church of White Plains, New York since 2004, Reverend Dr. Edward O. Williamson is a native of East St. Louis, Illinois; graduating from East St. Louis Lincoln Senior High School in 1979, he furthered his education by earning his Bachelor of Arts degree at Western Illinois University and his Master of Arts degree in General Theological Studies from Covenant Theological Seminary in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Attaining a wealth of knowledge, Reverend Dr. Edward O. Williamson completed a year of post-graduate theological studies at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri; he earned the Doctor of Ministry Degree with an emphasis in Christian Education and Urban Ministry from the United Theological Seminary in May of 2006; and

WHEREAS, Answering the call to gospel ministry in 1985, Reverend Dr. Edward O. Williamson became licensed to preach at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in St. Louis, Illinois; ordained in 1988, he served as an assistant to the pastor of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in East St. Louis for two years and as pastor of the Southern missionary Baptist Church in Madison, Illinois for nine years; and

WHEREAS, Embarking on his career in New York, Reverend Dr. Edward O. Williamson served as the pastor of Beautiful Plain Baptist Church in Binghamton, New York for five years; and

WHEREAS, Devout in his faith and service, Reverend Dr. Edward O. Williamson is a certified instructor and certified dean of Christian education for the Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; he formerly served as the Dean of Christian Education for the Central Hudson Baptist District Association and he is currently the Vice President of The Congress of Christian Education, an assistant state dean for the Empire Missionary Baptist State Convention of New York, and the Regional Coordinator of the Northeast region of the Sunday School Publishing Board; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to the community, Reverend Dr. Edward O. Williamson has held roles as a district executive and senior executive for the Boy Scouts of America, an intensive drug abuse probation officer in St. Clair County Illinois, and as clinical interventionist and aide in a mental health and chemical dependency treatment center; and

WHEREAS, Having received numerous awards and recognition, Reverend Dr. Edward O. Williamson is currently a member of the Ministers Fellowship Council of White Plains, Vice-Chairman of the board for the Thomas H. Slater Community Center, a member of the White Plains/Greenburgh Branch NAACP, Chaplain for the White Plains Public Safety Department, a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. the Beta Alpha Alpha Chapter, and is involved in many other community development and social service activities; and

WHEREAS, He 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 honor Reverend Dr. Edward O. Williamson upon the occasion of his 20th Pastoral Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Dr. Edward O. Williamson.