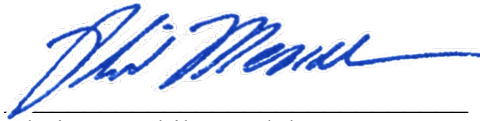


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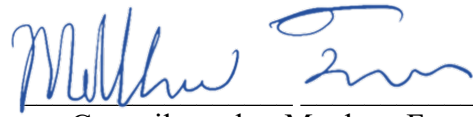
Chairman Phil Mendelson



Councilmember Brooke Pinto



Councilmember Zachary Parker



Councilmember Matthew Frumin



Councilmember Elissa Silverman

Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Wendell Felder

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize, honor, and celebrate the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church for its distinguished service to the people of the District of Columbia on its 160th celebration of establishment.

WHEREAS, in 1866, seven former enslaved members gathered in the home of John and Amy Slaughter for the purpose of forming a church;

WHEREAS, after receiving the necessary certification from the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, seven former enslaved members founded the Fifth Baptist Church at 1630 Vermont Avenue, N.W., in the Logan Circle Neighborhood;

WHEREAS, Reverend John Henry Brooks, a former Union Army wagon driver, was selected as the Church's first Pastor and led the congregation in acquiring the site and constructing the small wooden structure they named the Fifth Baptist Church;

WHEREAS, the main Sanctuary of the new brick Church was built in 1872, a cornerstone was laid, and a number of benevolent organizations were established;

WHEREAS, in 1890, under Rev. George Wellington Lee, the growing congregation added the current façade and steeple and adopted the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church name;

WHEREAS, since its founding, the Church has been blessed with nine pastors— Reverend John Henry Brooks, Reverend George Wellington Lee, Reverend James Edward Willis, Reverend Dr. Chasteen Theophilus Murray, Reverend Dr. John Rayford Wheeler, Reverend Cornelius Rayford Wheeler, former interim pastor Reverend Dr. Isaac Alexander Fox, Reverend Dr. John Julien Cox, and interim pastor Reverend Michael Curtis Miller;

WHEREAS, for more than a century, the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church has been a meeting place for leaders to provide services to uplift the African American community socially, economically, and spiritually;

WHEREAS, in the 20th century, the Church was a leader in mission work in the District and the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church of Zululand dedicated a Church outside of Durban, South Africa, in 1979; and

WHEREAS the Church family invites the entire community to join in fellowship each Sunday and during other services and events for praise, worship, study, and service to continue the mission of the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church in the 21st century.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Vermont Avenue Baptist Church 160th Founders Day Recognition Resolution of 2026”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes Vermont Avenue Baptist Church for its exceptional accomplishments and commitment to local and international humanity.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.