

BY ALDS. HAMILTON, LEWIS, PEREZ, RAINEY, COGGS, BOHL, STAMPER, BORKOWSKI, WITKOWSKI, JOHNSON

Resolution honoring the memory of Bishop Johnie C. Williams, who passed from this life on December 2, 2017.

WHEREAS,

BISHOP JOHNIE C. WILLIAMS

passed from this life on December 2, 2017, and the Wisconsin Third Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God In Christ celebrated his life and legacy on December 7 and 8, 2017; and

WHEREAS, *Bishop Johnie C. Williams followed his ministerial call in 1947, and with the help of Ruth Williams, they established the Holy Tabernacle Church of God in Christ in their living room of their home that quickly grew and relocated within the first few months; and*

WHEREAS, *Under Bishop Williams' leadership, the Holy Tabernacle Church of God in Christ became a refuge for Christians settling in Wisconsin in pursuit of a better life, and he strengthened the Milwaukee community through his dedication to advocating for affordable housing, income development, and stimulation of the local economy by cultivating human, social and physical capital for families; and*

WHEREAS, *Bishop Williams instituted several initiatives including an outreach ministry for homeless relief, and efforts to aid families migrating to Milwaukee, and the establishment of ministries that supplied food, clothing, shelter, spiritual counseling and financial help to families for more than 20 years; and*

WHEREAS, *Bishop Williams' leadership has been continuously recognized, as he visited the White House with several parishioners to pray with President Bill Clinton, he received a letter from Barrack Obama, he was named as one of the 100 most influential Pastors in the Whole Truth magazine, and he mentored church leaders of all faiths by providing them with his interpretation of Biblical scriptures and, in 1976 a group of Wisconsin Pastors elected Williams to lead them, and he was bestowed the highest honor a minister can achieve, the sacred and Biblical office of Bishop; and*

WHEREAS, *Bishop Williams and served as Pastor for 70 years and as Jurisdictional Bishop for 40 years at the Holy Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, which distinguished him as the longest serving cleric and active pastor in the history of Wisconsin; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith expresses its condolences to the friends and family of Bishop Johnie C. Williams and mourns his passing with deep sorrow, and be it*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Bishop Johnie C. Williams.*

Introduced by Common Council members Ashanti Hamilton, Chantia Lewis, José G. Pérez, Khalif J. Rainey, Russell W. Stamper, II, Milele A. Coggs, Jim Bohl, Mark A. Borkowski, Terry L. Witkowski and Cavalier Johnson and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on December 19, 2017.

