

Legislation Text

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Honoring and recognizing The Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity for being a pillar of strength and a symbol of hope for Philadelphia through its social justice activism.

WHEREAS, The Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity was founded 43 years ago after a Philadelphia teacher's strike. Led by Rev. James S. Allen, clergy members marched on Broad and Vine in protest, and 25, mostly Black, ministers were arrested. The organization represents a significant force in addressing the diverse challenges faced by the African American community; and

WHEREAS, The Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity stands firmly on the mandate in Psalms 82:3-4, "Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked."; and

WHEREAS, The Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity was established to serve as a collective voice and advocate for African Americans, and the organization has continuously evolved to meet the changing needs of the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, The Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity has worked to combat issues affecting the community such as COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, homelessness, gentrification, and gun violence; and

WHEREAS, To combat gun violence within the City, The Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity has used the power of prayer and collaboration with City officials to bring about a Safer Summer in Philly; and

WHEREAS, The Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity has exhibited a deep commitment to justice and equality by addressing issues such as education reform, racial profiling, and flaws within the criminal justice system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, that we hereby honor and recognize The Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity for being a pillar of strength and symbol of hope for Philadelphia through its social justice activism.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy be presented to The Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity, further evidencing the sincere admiration and respect of this legislative body.