

Legislation Text

File #: 190729, **Version:** 0

Recognizing and honoring Reverend A. Richard Dent, as he steps down as pastor of First African Baptist Church of Darby Township.

WHEREAS, For more than three decades, Reverend A. Richard Dent has served as pastor of First African Baptist Church of Darby Township in Sharon Hill, building a legacy of leadership that members describe as both spiritual and hands-on; and

WHEREAS, First African Baptist Church was Rev. Dent's first pastorate after graduating from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and as his relationship with the congregation has deepened over time, he has become more and more certain that the Lord intended for him to be present in that place and at that time; and

WHEREAS, Under the stewardship of Rev. Dent, First African Baptist grew its outreach ministries, enhanced its relationship with the community, ordained its first woman minister, and built a brand new church facility; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dent is a living example of prioritizing God and the ministry, and the members of First African Baptist have reflected this approach in their own lives by hosting an after-school center, operating an emergency food cupboard, visiting hospitalized people, and hosting a special annual event for teachers at the start of each school year; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dent is highly regarded by the congregation for his accessibility, approachability, and hands-on approach, and they know they can call him at any hour and receive a return call. He also calls each member on their birthday; and

WHEREAS, Upon stepping down at the end of December, Rev. Dent will hold the title of Pastor Emeritus, leaving the church in excellent condition for the next pastor, whom he will help to identify. He will have the opportunity for some well-deserved rest, yet will continue to be a familiar face at First African Baptist; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That Council does hereby recognize and honor Reverend A. Richard Dent, as he steps down as pastor of First African Baptist Church of Darby Township.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Reverend A. Richard Dent, evidencing the sincere admiration and respect of this legislative body.