

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. James H. Butler, Jr. was born on January 27, 1936 the second of three children to the late James and Gracie Butler in the Buckhead community of Atlanta, Georgia and attended City of Atlanta schools; and



WHEREAS, Dr. Butler earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Michigan, followed by his Master of Divinity degree from Interdenominational Theological Center, and his Doctor of Theology degree from Faith College; and



WHEREAS, Dr. Butler first delivered his trial sermon and was first licensed and ordained as a Baptist Minister at the Welcome Friend Baptist Church in 1973, and he was ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1976 with his first pastoral assignment at Green Temple A.M.E. Church; he has since pastored at several other churches, including Mt. Moriah A.M.E. Church in Swainsboro, Georgia, New Bethel A.M.E. Church in Columbus, Georgia, Mt. Carmel A.M.E. Church in Thomasville, Georgia, Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church, St. John A.M.E. Church, and Sanders Memorial Baptist Church in his native community of Buckhead; and



WHEREAS, Dr. Butler is a Civil Rights Activist who first marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and later became a liaison with Movement Forward, Inc., in support of the wrongful death of Mrs. Kathryn Johnston in a botched drug raid and attempted police cover up, and has since netted numerous arrests and historic indictments; Rev. Butler was also President of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition(Operation PUSH) during his pastorate while in Columbus, Georgia; and



WHEREAS, Dr. Butler's greatest accomplishment was his family; he and his wife, Bernice Rozier-Butler, were blessed with six children: Brigette, NiKole, Sheila, Homer, Steve, and Eldred, seven grandchildren: Ashley, Coriana, Darrius, Asia, Kyndal, Ellery, Jr., and Eddie, and two great-grandchildren: Zayah and Elias;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Rev. Dr. James Butler, Jr. for a life of integrity and dedication to his family and the spiritual wellness of his community, and does hereby proclaim Saturday, February 4, 2023 as "REV. DR. JAMES H. BUTLER, JR. REMEMBRANCE DAY" in Fulton County, Georgia.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner

Attest:

Commissioner

Clerk to the Commission

F U L T O N C O U N T Y