

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS,*

Rev. W.L. Cottrell was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi to Willie Lee and Mary Clifford Cottrell and was called to the ministry and preached his first sermon at the Christian Liberty Baptist Church at the age of nineteen; and



*WHEREAS,*

Rev. Cottrell earned a Bachelor of Theology degree at the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee, and he later earned both a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College and a Master of Divinity from the Morehouse School of Religion; and



*WHEREAS,*

Rev. Cottrell served as Pastor of Beulah Baptist Church in Atlanta since 1958 and most currently served as Pastor Emeritus; during this tenure at Beulah, a sanctuary of contemporary design was built in 1963 and a multi-million dollar Family Services center was added in 1983; and



*WHEREAS,*

In 1986, Rev. Cottrell formed the Vine City Housing Ministry; his tireless dedication to developing affordable housing in the Vine City community led to him being hailed as the "Godfather of Community Development", and he was elected President of the Vine City Civic Association; and



*WHEREAS,*

Rev. Cottrell was a member of several organizations including the Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Atlanta and the New Era State Baptist Convention of Georgia; he was also inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College Alumni Association Achievement Awards, and he received a certificate of appreciation from The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for his submission to the Inauguration 2009 Sermon and Oration Projects.



*WHEREAS,*

Rev. Cottrell was married to the late Mrs. Constance Swanson Cottrell and was the proud father of three sons: William Lee Cottrell, Jr., Christopher Leon Cottrell, Sr., and Juan Britt Cottrell, and he was the grandfather of four and great grandfather of eight;



***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,*** That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Rev. W.L. Cottrell for a life of integrity and dedication to the spiritual wellness of his congregation and community, and does hereby proclaim Monday, May 23, 2022 as "**REV. W.L. COTTRELL REMEMBRANCE DAY**" in Fulton County, Georgia.

*Fulton County Board of Commissioners*

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Chair to the Commission

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk to the Commission

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