

RESOLUTION NO. 13225-19

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of Newport News, Virginia, would like to recognize the 31st pastoral anniversary and the retirement of the Reverend Ivan T. Harris, Pastor of First Baptist Church Denbigh; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Ivan T. Harris began his service at First Baptist Church Denbigh in 1988 and assumed the role of full-time pastor in 1991. Reverend Harris is the longest serving Pastor of First Baptist Church Denbigh, a church that with over 155 years of history is the oldest organized African-American church in the City of Newport News, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, as Pastor, Reverend Harris serves a congregation of about 2,500 members and leads a large official board that includes eighteen (18) deacons and trustees; a Christian Board of Education; multiple choirs; different committees, and organizational ministries; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Harris received his Bachelor of Science degree from Hampton University, his Bachelor of Theology and Doctor of Divinity degrees from United Christian College in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Reverend Harris completed additional studies in the Masters program of Trinity Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana and received a certificate in leadership from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Harris has served in and continues to serve in many conferences, conventions, committees, and boards, including the Minister's Coalition as Director of Music, and the Hampton University Minister's Conference where for many years Reverend Harris's harmonica skills have been featured on the talent program; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Reverend Harris released his first harmonica album entitled "Jesus Saves", followed by his second album, "He Delivered Me" in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Harris is the director of the Boys to Men Mentorship Program and a past president of the Peninsula Pastors Council. He has served on the boards of Mary Immaculate Bon Secours Hospital in Newport News and the Community Free Clinic of Newport News; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Harris has received numerous awards for his community service including the Hampton University Presidential Citizenship Award in 2002. In 2003, the Mayor of the City of Newport News, Joe S. Frank, proclaimed April 4, 2003 as "Ivan T. Harris Day"; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Harris's ministry has taken him on three tours of Israel and to the Republic of Benin in Africa where he facilitated First Baptist Church Denbigh's African Village Adoption Project. Through Pastor Harris's leadership and First Baptist Church Denbigh's efforts, a well, a Christian school, a medical clinic, and a 300-seat church facility have been built in the adopted village; and

WHEREAS, through Reverend Harris's leadership, the First Baptist Church Denbigh Outreach Center was dedicated in 2006. The outreach center provides transitional housing for women, a clothing closet, and a food pantry; and

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of Newport News wishes to recognize Reverend Ivan T. Harris on his 31st pastoral anniversary and on his retirement as pastor of First Baptist Church Denbigh and the Council acknowledges his many years of service to First Baptist Church Denbigh and the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Newport News, Virginia:

1. That it hereby recognizes and congratulates the Reverend Ivan T. Harris on his 31st pastoral anniversary and on his retirement as Pastor of the First Baptist Church Denbigh in the City of Newport News.
2. That it congratulates Reverend Ivan T. Harris for his dedicated service to First Baptist Church Denbigh and the community, and extends its best wishes for continued success.
3. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the records of this body and that a copy be presented to Reverend Ivan T. Harris.
4. That this resolution shall be in effect on and after the date of its adoption, May 14, 2019.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS ON May 14, 2019

Mabel Washington Jenkins, MMC
City Clerk

McKinley L. Price, DDS
Mayor

A true copy, teste:

City Clerk