

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF ESSEX

RESOLUTION NO. _____
PROPOSED BY: COMMISSIONER RICHARDSON
SUBJECT: _____

AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION N.J.S.A. 40:41A-38(q)
AUTHORITY FOR ACTION C.C.E. 3:2-29(B)

#50

COMMENDATION

HONORING THE ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH

ON ITS 106TH ANNIVERSARY – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023

WHEREAS, Newark's Abyssinian Baptist Church, an illuminant refuge of healing and hope located at 224 West Kinney Street, Newark, New Jersey, will celebrate its 106th Anniversary on Sunday, February 5, 2023, with highlights featuring guest celebrant Willie Caldwell, the inspirational pastor of New Born Baptist Church of Newark, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, this historic church service will be followed by the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Commission's installation of a plaque acknowledging Abyssinian Baptist Church's legacy as the second oldest extant synagogue structure in the City of Newark; and

WHEREAS, the Abyssinian Baptist Church, as one of Newark's most propitious landmarks, was designed in Classical Revival style by Newark-born architect Nathan Myers and constructed in 1901 as Anshe Russian (People of Russia) Synagogue, and then purchased in 1947 by Abyssinian Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, although the Abyssinian Baptist Church has upgraded the structure's interior to accommodate its growing congregation over the decades, it has diligently preserved the architectural integrity of the façade for more than 105 years to serve as a beacon of light in the Newark community and beyond, embodying its motto: "The Church in the heart of the city with the people of the city in its heart"; and

WHEREAS, special appreciation is warranted for the efforts of many to ensure the success of this auspicious occasion, including Deacon Lee Shingles and Deacon Derrick Spencer, Sister Mary L. Harris, the Victoria Foundation, Andrea Tingey from the State Historic Preservation Office, and Mark W. Gordon of the Newark Landmarks and Preservation Committee; and

WHEREAS, the theme of this momentous celebration is "Building on Our Legacy" with its scripture roots in Proverbs 3:5-6, "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight*"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of County Commissioners recognizes the debt of gratitude our community at large holds for the teachings, unity, values and outreach of Abyssinian Baptist Church, for all its acts of goodness, charity and redemption, and for serving as a stalwart living monument to the compassion, forgiveness and healing proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be presented to the Abyssinian Baptist Church.

Approved as to form and legality _____

Commissioner Counsel

RECORD OF VOTE (X=Vote N.V.=Abstention ABS=Absent)

Moved by Commissioner _____

Second by Commissioner _____

Commissioner	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS	Commissioner	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS
COOPER					MERCADO				
GILL					POMARES, V.P.				
GRAHAM					SEBOLD				
JOHNSON									
LUCIANO					RICHARDSON, PRES.				

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution was () adopted () defeated () tabled by roll call vote at a _____ meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Essex, New Jersey held on _____

Is Publication Required () Yes () No

Date Published _____

Wayne L. Richardson, President