

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, founded in 1865, Beulah Baptist Institutional Church is recognized as the oldest African American church in the city of Tampa, Florida, and for 154 years, it has served its congregation and the Tampa community with dedication, and through its leadership, has prospered and greatly contributed to Tampa's success and growth; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Dr. W. James Favorite was born in Vacherie, Louisiana, and he earned his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Divinity degrees from Virginia Seminary and College of Lynchburg, Virginia, and received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Maryland Theological Seminary and College for his outstanding service in the ministry. Prior to being ordained in 1975, Pastor Favorite had an impressive career in management and sales with the Maremont Corporation; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning his ministry career as Pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church in Catonsville, Maryland, Pastor Favorite served with distinction and was responsible for its successful growth, and in 1995, he was called to Beulah Baptist Institutional Church, in Tampa, Florida, following the impressive tenure of Reverend A. Leon Lowry, and where his leadership and impact on the success of the church was evident from early on through his vision for its future; and

**WHEREAS**, during his over two decades with Beulah Baptist Institutional Church, Pastor Favorite substantially increased its membership, increased the size of the church's property, and he elevated the members of the congregation through successful initiatives including the Christian Education and Leadership Training programs, and he made the youth of the community a priority by focusing on spiritual growth and investing in their futures through scholarships and support; and

**WHEREAS**, always willing to assist where needed, Pastor Favorite is well-known and respected in the Tampa community for his leadership, and his efforts as an advocate and visionary including his work in founding the Tampa affiliate of the *National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS* that brings awareness and financial support for HIV/AIDS, through his years of service with *Pastors on Patrol of Tampa Bay, Inc.* where he has served as its President, and many other initiatives that greatly benefit the community and its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**; in honor of his life-long commitment to his faith, church, congregation, and community, Beulah Baptist Institutional Church is hosting a ***Reverend Dr. W. James Favorite Retirement Gala*** on Saturday, September 28, 2019, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, and the celebration provides an opportunity to recognize all that Pastor Favorite has accomplished over his stellar ministerial career, show appreciation for his dedication and genuine concern for others, and for his efforts to improve the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa is pleased to join Beulah Baptist Institutional Church and the Tampa Bay community in congratulating Reverend Dr. W. James Favorite on his retirement after thirty-years in the ministry, twenty-five of them with Beulah Baptist Institutional Church.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, September 28, 2019 as

## **“REVEREND DR. W. JAMES FAVORITE DAY”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and call on all citizens to join me in recognizing Pastor Favorite for his steadfast dedication to his faith and his beloved Beulah Baptist Institutional Church, and in thanking him for his many contributions to our city, and in wishing him continued life successes in his retirement.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.



*Jane Castor*  
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Mayor