



Introduced Version

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**HOUSE  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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*Introduced by: Pryor, Summers*

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1        A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing Second Baptist  
2        Church of Indianapolis.

3        *Whereas, Second Baptist Church of Indianapolis, Indiana,*  
4        *is the oldest black Baptist Church in the state of Indiana, and*  
5        *was organized in 1846 by Reverend Charles Sachel, a*  
6        *missionary and pastor of the Baker Street Baptist Church of*  
7        *Cincinnati, Ohio;*

8        *Whereas, The first meetings were held in the home of*  
9        *Deacon John Brown near the corner of West and Ohio Streets.*  
10       *The congregation grew and was moved into an old school*  
11       *house on Alabama Street;*

12       *Whereas, In 1848, the Reverend Joshua Thurman of*  
13       *Madison, Indiana, was called to pastor the church, and the first*  
14       *church home was built on Missouri Street between New York*

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1 *and Ohio Streets in 1849;*

2 *Whereas, The church building burned during the winter of*  
3 *1851 and meetings returned to the home of Deacon John Brown*  
4 *as a portion of the land was sold for materials to begin new*  
5 *construction;*

6 *Whereas, In 1852, Reverend Jessie Young became the pastor*  
7 *of Second Baptist and under his leadership new construction*  
8 *began and Reverend Joseph Fitzgerald oversaw the completion*  
9 *of the building shortly thereafter;*

10 *Whereas, Church membership grew quickly over the*  
11 *decades, and members of the community and greater*  
12 *Indianapolis area joined in fellowship and worship under the*  
13 *successful leadership of pastors, all whom answered their*  
14 *calling to serve;*

15 *Whereas, On August 22, 1995, Reverend David W. Greene,*  
16 *Sr. was called to pastor Second Baptist, and his leadership*  
17 *brought over 40 new ministries, including: serving food for*  
18 *Indianapolis' homeless; operating a food pantry for needy*  
19 *families; sponsoring an annual Community Awareness Day*  
20 *and Health Fair; providing financial support to not-for-profit*  
21 *organizations that serve the poor and disenfranchised; running*  
22 *a summer camp program and annual community events;*  
23 *adopting local public schools and offering leadership and*  
24 *mentoring as positive role models for at risk youth;*

25 *Whereas, Under the leadership of Pastor Greene, Second*  
26 *Baptist purchased and paid for the eleven acres of land at their*  
27 *current location, 3705 North Kessler Boulevard North Drive,*  
28 *which houses their multi-purpose Family Life Center and Child*  
29 *Care facility;*

30 *Whereas, Second Baptist Church and their outreach ministry*  
31 *known as Purpose of Life Ministries in Indianapolis and the*  
32 *Greater Indianapolis communities has received local and*  
33 *national attention;*

34 *Whereas, Second Baptist Church and Purpose of Life*  
35 *Ministries are thankful for their rich history and the many*



1 *blessings that they have experienced and shared in their*  
2 *community; and*

3 *Whereas, The members of the Second Baptist Church*  
4 *celebrate 176 years of continual worship, fellowship, and*  
5 *service in their community fulfilling their motto to live a*  
6 *faith-filled life and to "Find Our Purpose. Live Our Purpose.*  
7 *Share Our Purpose": Therefore,*

8 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*  
9 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

10 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives  
11 congratulates the members of the Second Baptist Church on the  
12 occasion of their 176th anniversary.

13 SECTION 2. That the Indiana House of Representatives  
14 recognizes the members and leadership of Second Baptist  
15 Church and Purpose of Life Ministries in their many  
16 contributions across Indianapolis and the Greater Indianapolis  
17 area.

18 SECTION 3. That the Principal Clerk of the House of  
19 Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to the  
20 office of State Representative Cherrish Pryor for distribution.

