

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY SENATOR BOUIE

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Torin T. Sanders upon twenty-five years of pastoral care and to congratulate him for his exemplary service to the body of Christ.

WHEREAS, Torin T. Sanders was born in New York City and attended public schools in the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, always the scholar, Dr. Sanders attended the prestigious historically black college of Howard University on a four-year academic scholarship, was admitted to Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, and graduated magna cum laude; and

WHEREAS, developing an appreciation and desire to be engaged in an academic program that integrates both clinical and community-based practice that is purposed to help individuals build upon personal, cultural, and community strengths to heal and grow, Dr. Sanders went on to earn both a master's degree and doctor of philosophy from Tulane University in the field of social work; and

WHEREAS, it is with his practice of both social work and the social sciences that distinguished Dr. Sanders as a phenomenal practitioner based in the city of New Orleans and as a result he was selected to serve as supervisor at the parent-child center at Kingsley House and also as coordinator of the Louis Armstrong Manhood Development program at Milne Boys Home; and

WHEREAS, living and serving in New Orleans during a time when the city was plagued with violent crime, Dr. Sanders became aware of the many children who suffered from post traumatic stress disorder and the need for resources to assist these children with their emotional healing; because of his capacity for leadership and knowledge of the field, he was tapped to be the first director of Project LAST, also known as Project Loss and Survival Team, a program created to provide therapeutic services to children and families impacted by a traumatic event, as well as those children and families who have lost a loved

one, witnessed violence, or have been a victim of violence; and

WHEREAS, through his innate love for people and his keen insight for guiding others to healing and wholeness, Dr. Sanders accepted his call to ministry, and in 1997, he was elected as only the eighth pastor of Sixth Baptist Church which is known as a household of faith, dating back to the mid-nineteenth century; and

WHEREAS, in the nineteenth century both free and enslaved Africans attended Coliseum Square Baptist Church along with white parishioners, however, the enslaved and free Africans were not treated as equal parishioners; not wishing to endure such indignity, the Africans founded the Sixth Baptist Church in 1858; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Dr. Torin T. Sanders, Sixth Baptist Church has a proven record of the move of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the history of Sixth Baptist Church shares the story of the struggle of Africans in America who overcame adversity and trials and their choice to walk by faith; and

WHEREAS, over twenty-five years as lead pastor, Dr. Sanders has ensured that the church "reaches the lost and teaches the saved to serve" and he demonstrates this sentiment by serving red beans and rice on Mondays to the homeless population, distributing college scholarships annually to students, and participating in Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit, Christian-based housing ministry that works in partnership with deserving, low-income families and the community to eliminate poverty housing through building simple, decent homes; and

WHEREAS, before Hurricane Katrina devastated south Louisiana, Sixth Baptist Church sponsored "God's Vineyard", a community garden managed by local youth and the fruit of that project was not only young people learning about and growing produce, but also the creation of the well-known St. Thomas Seven Pepper Sauce that was sold at local farmer's markets in and around New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the members of the church that Dr. Sanders shepherds meet regularly to encourage and edify each other in various auxiliaries; domestic and international mission work has also been a priority for Sixth Baptist Church during Dr. Sanders' tenure; and the church has raised and donated resources to survivors of the historic Baton Rouge flood of 2016, as well as to a school in Haiti and the Lott Carey Foreign Mission; and

WHEREAS, throughout his pastoral career, Dr. Sanders has earned the respect and admiration of his community and has become a well-known and respected civic leader; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, he was elected to the Orleans Parish School Board where he twice served as president and has served as vice president of Volunteers of America; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Sanders wears many hats in his service to the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana, including: chair to the New Orleans Council on Aging and the New Orleans Children and Youth Planning Board; co-chair of the Childhood Trauma Task Force; appointed member of the board of St. Thomas Community Health Clinic, and as Vice Chair of the New Orleans Ethics Review Board; has been a leader in the Jeremiah Group, and currently with Together New Orleans, and now serves as Executive Secretary of the Cornerstone Missionary Baptist General Association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sanders is currently an Associate Professor at the Millie M. Charles School of Social Work at Southern University at New Orleans; he has received numerous awards for his administrative, educational, and teaching skills from organizations including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Victims and Citizens against Crime, the National Association of Black Social Workers, Gambit 40 under 40, Rainbow PUSH, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, of which he is a proud member; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sanders is blessed to be married to the former Dana Williams and the couple have two wonderful adult sons, Malik and Myles who are their pride and joy; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Torin T. Sanders exudes godliness, humility, dedication, and tenacity as is evident in his life of service and many inspirational accomplishments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Torin T. Sanders for twenty-five years of spiritual leadership and to congratulate him on this milestone achievement that is exemplified through his service to mankind in fulfillment of his God-given purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Torin T. Sanders and the Sixth Baptist Church of New Orleans, Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE