

VOTE  
6/4/19

**TESTIMONIAL  
RESOLUTIONS  
AND SPECIAL  
PRIVILEGE**

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL

Testimonial Resolution

DETROIT YOUTH CHOIR

WHEREAS, The DETROIT YOUTH CHOIR (DYC), a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization was founded in September 1996 under the conductorship of Mr. Fleming J. Ivory. He was succeeded by the current President/Director, Mr. Anthony White in September 2001. The DETROIT YOUTH CHOIR services young people throughout the metropolitan Detroit area, from ages 8 through 18; and

WHEREAS, The organization's vision is to offer youth a world-class performing arts experience that develops their creative skills and talents. The program teaches and develops students through music education, dance and theatrical arts. The DETROIT YOUTH CHOIR performed at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Michigan's Outdoor Adventure Center and the Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The choir has also performed for other local organizations such as, the Detroit Pistons, Spectrum Children Services, the U of M Basketball Club-Ann Arbor, Dollars for Scholars, Focus Hope, Arise Detroit, the A.I.M. Youth Conference, Light Up Detroit, the Youth Development Commission, Detroit Public Library, the Impact TV Network, and Detroit's "The Drop" New Year's Eve celebration. One of the DETROIT YOUTH CHOIR'S most recent major accomplishments was its participation in a documentary IMAX film America's Musical Journey which will be shown in IMAX theatres across the United States. The choir opened for CityLab 2018 and also had an opportunity to record with the UK group, The Go! Team and were featured on 7 songs on their album. The DETROIT YOUTH CHOIR entered the America's Got Talent national competition and traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio, with the hope of making it to the main stage in Los Angeles, California; and

WHEREAS, The DETROIT YOUTH CHOIR is the recipient of numerous awards and certificates of appreciation, locally and internationally. These awards include: 40 Under 40 Award from the Michigan Chronicle, Best in Black Award 2018, Texas Gospel Excellence Music Award 2018, the Spirit of Detroit Award, DMC Community Service Award, Spirit of Memphis Award, and the Mary McCloud Bethune Community Service Award. The organization has been featured on various media outlets such as, Mix 92.3 with Frankie Darcell, Fox 2 Detroit, WXYZ Channel 7, WDIV Channel 4 and PBS Channel 56; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the DETROIT YOUTH CHOIR with their grace and style have produced a great number of college graduates, singers, producers, song writers, screen writers, rappers, Broadway stars, and an American Idol finalist. The DETROIT YOUTH CHOIR has maintained a 98% student graduation rate over twenty years of serving the community through the arts. On Friday, June 7, 2019, the DETROIT YOUTH CHOIR will perform at a spring concert fundraiser at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, sponsored by the Tabernacle Scholarship Committee. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council, and office of Council President Brenda Jones, hereby acknowledges and celebrates the success of the DETROIT YOUTH CHOIR.

Brenda Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

James G. Axson
COUNCIL MEMBER

Scott Benson
COUNCIL MEMBER

Raquel Castañeda-López
COUNCIL MEMBER

Duke Deland
COUNCIL MEMBER

James J. Davis
COUNCIL MEMBER

James Tate
COUNCIL MEMBER

June 7, 2019
DATE

*Testimonial Resolution*  
**Reverend Burnard Byles**  
*20<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary*










**WHEREAS,** Reverend Burnard Byles was born on February 27, 1957, in Detroit, Michigan. He was educated in the Detroit Public Schools system. Reverend Byles is married to Sister Sharon Jean Byles and has three children by marriage: Towanda, Jeremiah and Siobhan. They are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren: Kala Lauderdale, Cameron and Colin Adam, and Tiffany Dyson-Lauderdale; and

**WHEREAS,** Reverend Byles earned an Undergraduate degree in Religious Education and a Master's degree in Systemic Theology from Midwestern Baptist Bible College. He also received an Undergraduate degree in Religious Education from the Faith Bible Institute in Monroe, Louisiana. Reverend Byles' education also includes many certificates of certification from the National Baptist Convention USA. As the Shepherd and leader of the congregation of Church of Our Father Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Byles stresses the importance of Christian education with an emphasis on learning and knowing how to render excellent Christian service to God; and

**WHEREAS,** During his ministerial career, Reverend Byles has served in various capacities: Associate Minister at Greater Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church, Youth Minister at Greater New Testament Missionary Baptist Church, Missionary for the Metropolitan District Association, Wayne County Jail Ministry, Bible Teacher and as a Worship Leader. In addition, he served as an Associate Minister and Youth Minister at Church of Our Father under the pastoral leadership of Reverend Dr. Thomas Evans. Reverend Byles currently serves as Chairman of the Carver Camp Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Baptist District Association. He is also a faithful member of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity; and

**WHEREAS,** After Reverend Evans became ill in the summer of 1997, Reverend Byles was ordained on the second Sunday in November 1997. He was promoted to the Office of Assistant to the Pastor. He served in this capacity until he was appointed as Pastor-elect, in January 1999. On the fourth Sunday of March 1999, the membership installed him as the esteemed Pastor of Church of Our Father Missionary Baptist Church. Reverend Burnard Byles is a man of great spiritual depth, faith, obedience and commitment. He is a persuasive and effective teacher of God's word. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council and office of Council President Brenda Jones, joins with family, friends and members to extend congratulations to Reverend Burnard Byles on this wonderful occasion as you celebrate your 20<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary.

 _____ COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM	 _____ COUNCIL PRESIDENT	 _____ COUNCIL MEMBER
 _____ COUNCIL MEMBER		 _____ COUNCIL MEMBER
 _____ COUNCIL MEMBER		 _____ COUNCIL MEMBER
 _____ COUNCIL MEMBER		 _____ COUNCIL MEMBER

May 31, 2019  
DATE

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

In Memoriam

Celebrating the Life of

Bishop Dr. Sidney Charles Griffin, Sr.

WHEREAS, We, the members of the Detroit City Council, solemnly pause today to honor the memory of the late BISHOP DR. SIDNEY CHARLES GRIFFIN SR., who made his heavenly transition on May 20, 2019; and

WHEREAS, BISHOP DR. SIDNEY GRIFFIN was born on October 28, 1948, in Highland Park, Michigan. He was educated in the Detroit Public Schools system and graduated from Northern High School. He was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel in December 1973. BISHOP GRIFFIN continued a pursuit of higher education at the University of Detroit, where he graduated magna cum lauda. He received a Doctor of Divinity degree from the Detroit Urban Institute and an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree in 1988; and

WHEREAS, In July 1986, BISHOP GRIFFIN received his calling to lead Pilgrim Baptist Church. In 1988, he organized a community-based program at Pilgrim, called Survival Inc. Under his pastorate many people have come to know and love Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and confidante; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, BISHOP GRIFFIN married the love of his life and the lady that God created just for him, Yvette Daniels. He was affiliated with a wide array of religious, professional, civic, and non-profit organizations, including the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity Inc., Past Chairman of the Pastoral Care Committee, Vice President of the Common Word Alliance, Clergy United, NAACP, Black United Fund, Youth Volunteers Community Service, Fundamental Fairness, United Way, and Chairman of the Board of the Clear Purpose Foundation. BISHOP GRIFFIN was elected and re-elected as Moderator of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist District Association and Auxiliaries, where he served faithfully for six years from 2005 to 2011. BISHOP GRIFFIN was filled with the love of God and humanity. The lessons he taught, the example he set, the wisdom he imparted, made a significant impact in the lives of others. BISHOP SIDNEY CHARLES GRIFFIN SR. has been a good servant and ensured that the values and traditions by which he lived, would exist in the hearts of those he cherished for years to come. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council and office of Council President Brenda Jones, hereby joins with family and friends in celebrating the life and legacy of BISHOP DR. SIDNEY CHARLES GRIFFIN SR., a noble man and an example for us to aspire to.

Brenda Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Jamie L. Loy
COUNCIL MEMBER

Scott Be...
COUNCIL MEMBER

Raguel Castañeda-Jopey
COUNCIL MEMBER

John A. ...
COUNCIL MEMBER

...
COUNCIL MEMBER

...
COUNCIL MEMBER

James ...
COUNCIL MEMBER

May 31, 2019
DATE