

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. James Simms was born in Richmond, Virginia and grew up the son of a Baptist minister on the North Side; feeling led to Christian ministry, he earned his master's and doctoral degrees from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Simms has pastored two churches, St. John Baptist Church in Wilmerding, and St. Paul Baptist Church in the Point Breeze neighborhood of Pittsburgh, where he has been the pastor for the past 40 years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his devotion to the church and congregation, Rev. Dr. Simms has also felt a strong devotion to his surrounding community; in 1977, he became the first serious black candidate for mayor in the history of the City of Pittsburgh; he won election as one of the original County Council members in 1999 and was elected President of County Council in 2002; Rev. Dr. Simms resigned from the Council in 2003, under requirements of the County Charter, to run for County Controller; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Simms subsequently became the first black member of the City's fiscal oversight board; his years of public service, both to the members of his church and to the residents of Allegheny County, have not gone unnoticed; Rev. Dr. Simms has been a voice in the community and his impact will not soon be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, a Pastoral Celebration in honor of Rev. Dr. Simms will be held on Saturday, June 21, 2014 at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in recognition of his 40 years of pastoral leadership and dedication to St. Paul Baptist Church.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby congratulate Reverend Dr. James Simms on his well-deserved retirement, and wish him all the best in the years to come!

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 21st day of June, 2014.

Rich Fitzgerald

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