

*The Board of Supervisors of  
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

**Resolution No. 2019/99**

**Recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church**

Whereas, The North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church was formed in 1919 by Reverend G.C. Coleman; the first officials were Willie Miles, Jack Robinson, and Frank Washington, serving as Deacons; and

Whereas, in 1921, the cornerstone was laid for the church building and North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church became the first Negro Baptist Church in Contra Costa County, and in this same year, Reverend Henry Holmes was appointed Pastor; and

Whereas, Reverend Henry Holmes resigned as pastor in 1925. A rotation of ministers preached each Sunday, Reverends Grant Robinson, Saunders, David Lewis, and Frazier. In 1931, field missionary Reverend John Henry Moore recommended Reverend Fred W. Watkins become pastor. In April, 1932, Reverend Fred W. Watkins was selected as Pastor of the North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church. Watkins successfully led the church through the Depression and World War II. Watkins served as Pastor for 25 years, and encouraged member involvement in local, civic, social as well as political organizations and was viewed as a mentor and elder statesman to ministers in California and other parts of the country; and

Whereas, the church has been remodeled twice, and in 1965, a new edifice was built and remains on the same site today; and

Whereas, Reverend Charles W. Newsome was elected and installed as pastor on June 18, 1967, where he served faithfully for 38 years. On December 4, 1977, a mortgage ceremony was held to celebrate paying off the church mortgage. Reverend Charles W. Newsome encouraged members to be civically active and pursue District and State offices. He brought a vision of spiritual empowerment, civic responsibility, and community involvement to the congregation; and

Whereas, partnerships with local churches and organizations created programs and services that involved the congregation with: Interracial Interdenominational Day, Juvenile Hall, Children of Prisoners, National Military Appreciation, STOP (Steps to Offer Prevention) Training, National Highway Traffic Safety Programs, American Bible Study Youth Conferences and the Fire Department Youth Academy. Grand openings of the North Richmond Community Resource Center and the F.W. Watkins Library, also occurred under his tutelage; and

Whereas, in 2004 Reverend Newsome retired and assumed the position of Pastor Emeritus. Reverend Dana Keith Mitchell, Sr., the director of Christian Education, became Interim Pastor. In July 2005, Reverend Mitchell was elected Pastor. He came with a vision for rebuilding and a compassion for teaching God's Word; and

Whereas, under Reverend Mitchell's leadership the following new ministries have been organized: Young Adult, Sanctuary Choir, Security, Men and the Elder Board. Reverend Mitchell has forged partnerships that have a direct impact on the needs of the community, including the American Red Cross Disaster Team, Make a Difference Day, Community Health Fairs, Youth Basketball Tournaments, and the North

Richmond Community Garden.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County congratulates North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church on a century of service in the community of North Richmond, and thanks those who have led and worshipped at this church over the years for their lasting contributions to Contra Costa County.

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**JOHN GIOIA**

Chair, District I Supervisor

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**CANDACE ANDERSEN**

District II Supervisor

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**DIANE BURGIS**

District III Supervisor

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**KAREN MITCHOFF**

District IV Supervisor

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**FEDERAL D. GLOVER**

District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: April 9, 2019

David J. Twa,

By: \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy