

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Green Cove Springs was among newly formed churches across the United States of America, the Caribbean, and Africa, under the umbrella of the African Methodist Episcopal denomination founded in 1816 by the Right Bishop Richard Allen; and

**WHEREAS**, ninety-seven years after the American Revolutionary War (1776), eight years after the American Civil War (1865), and two years after Green Cove Springs, Florida became the Clay County seat in 1871, nine individuals established the Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1873, distinguishing it as the oldest and first African American church in Clay County, which has continued without interruption; and

**WHEREAS**, the founders comprised three African Americans and six White Americans including one woman who became the original Trustees, namely Mr. Thomas Jenkins, Mr. Daniel Brunson, Mr. Henry Bran, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Shipman, Dr. Carey Allen Trimble, Dr. Joseph W. Applegate, Mr. Theodore T. Edgerton, Sr., and Major J. Houston M. Clinch, respectively, who used their time, talents, gifts, and treasure to advance the church; and

**WHEREAS**, Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church formed after Edward Waters University in 1866 and before all other historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in Florida, provided residents with news on the status of World Wars I and II regarding the welfare of their loved ones who served in the military, was the interim Dunbar High School in the 1940s while the new school was under construction, opened its doors as a daycare when needed in the 1960s, and today remains a testament to hard work as a community servant-leader by the power of God, and as a spiritual incubator for church and community growth; and

**WHEREAS**, after 150 years, Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church is led by Rev. James Pernell, Sr., Pastor, and wife, Lady Roxanna Pernell, who are responsible for operations and administration of a core group of faithful members, Trustee Board, Steward and Stewardess Boards, the Sarah Catherine Muldrow Women's Missionary Society, the Lay Organization, the Young People's Department, and Mt. Zion Community Development Corporation, Inc.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The City of Green Cove Springs hereby celebrates the 150th Anniversary of the Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Section 2.** A true copy of this Proclamation shall be spread upon the Official Minutes of the City Council of the City of Green Cove Springs.

**DONE AND PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, IN REGULAR SESSION THIS 7TH DAY OF MARCH, 2023.**

**CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA**



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Daniel M. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Erin West, City Clerk