

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, Green Cove Springs, Clay County, is among over 7000 worldwide churches under the auspices of the African Methodist Episcopal denomination, founded by the Right Bishop Richard Allen (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) in 1816), and

WHEREAS, Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, is the oldest African American church in Clay County, which has continued without interruption since February 1873, and is younger than Edward Waters University, the oldest historical Black university in Florida founded in Jacksonville in 1866, and

WHEREAS, individuals of African American and Caucasian descent, male and female, were original Trustees, and among them was the late Mr. Henry Bram (Bran), an African American laborer, who served as Clay County Commissioner from 1876 to 1877; and Mt. Zion celebrates the late Methodist Minister Edward Fells, who served Clay County as an elected Constable, and a City of Green Cove Springs Councilman in 1874 to 1876, and was the father of world renown sculptress Augusta Fells Savage, and

WHEREAS, the Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church's congregation, assets, and treasured historic artifacts are, today, under the care of Rev. George L. Reed, Jr., Pastor, with his wife, Leading Lady Tammyla Harris-Reed; and

WHEREAS, its Women's Missionary Society is named for late member, Sarah Muldrow, entrepreneur, and owner of the Muldrow Hotel, which was once the only known African American hotel/rooming house in the old principal business district for African Americans on Old Middleburg Road (now Martin Luther King Blvd.), and

WHEREAS, Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, which once served as the *interim* Dunbar High School in the 1940s after the original school on Pine/Walburg and Cypress was condemned, remains a testament to hard work as a community trustee and, by the power of God, still stands as a spiritual incubator for church and community growth through a growing community development corporation and is one year older than the City of Green Cove Springs, Florida.

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 recognizes and celebrates the 151st Anniversary and historical significance.

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 2ND DAY OF APRIL, 2024.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA



Constance W. Butler, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erin West, City Clerk