



City of Chicago



R2018-485

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Meeting Date: 5/25/2018

Sponsor(s): Harris (8)

Type: Resolution

Title: Gratitude extended to Reverend Dr. Lawrence J. Clark,
Senior Pastor St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, for
spiritual leadership and inspiration

Committee(s) Assignment:

A City Council Resolution Honoring Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Clark, II

WHEREAS, On behalf of the citizens of the 8th Ward of the City of Chicago, it is with pleasure that the **Honorable Michelle A. Harris, Alderman of the 8th Ward** dedicates this resolution in honor of the tireless work, commitment and extensive professional accomplishments of the **Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Clark, II, Senior Pastor of the St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church**; and

WHEREAS, This august body, the Chicago City Council has been informed of these honorable accomplishments by the **Honorable Michelle A. Harris, Alderman of the 8th Ward**; and

WHEREAS, **Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Clark, II** is a pastorally passionate, spirit filled, faithful man of God, who is well-known and widely respected, unashamedly African American and unapologetically Lutheran. Born in San Francisco, California to Mae and the late Lawrence R. Clark on Sept 5, he was named after his paternal grandfather, Lawrence James Clark, I. He is married to the First Lady of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mrs. Darlene C. Clark, and they are the proud, loving parents of four (4) children: Jessica, Mariah, Jeremiah and Isaiah Clark; and

WHEREAS, In particular, I **Michelle A. Harris, Alderman of the city's 8th Ward**, would like to acknowledge the dedicated leadership, exceptional evangelical vision and missionary work done by **Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Clark, II** over the years during his pastorate of **St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church**. Not only was he instrumental in providing the congregation with various levels of leadership during several transformative periods, he greatly contributed to the spread of an activist model of Christianity through intensive community outreach and service throughout the **8th Ward**; and

WHEREAS, **Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Clark, II** has dedicated his life to the pursuit of educational, professional excellence and service to God. A graduate of Lowell High School in San Francisco, and the City College of San Francisco, he played football on the 1983 Championship Team, serving as a Team Co-Captain. He earned a B.A. in U.S. History from San Francisco State University, teaching physical education and coaching Football and Wrestling at the High School and Collegiate levels, while achieving an advanced M.A. degree in Physical Education. He's a longtime volunteer wrestling coach at Chicago Vocational Career Academy. Upon hearing the call of Christ, **Rev. Dr. Clark** entered seminary, and also earned an M.Div. Previously serving as the Executive Director of the L.T.C.A. (Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta) on the historic ITC Campus, **Rev. Dr. Clark** has held several other ministerial positions. The recipient of numerous awards, accolades and honors, he has served and continues to serve on several governing boards, committees, organizations throughout Chicago. **Rev. Dr. Clark** also serves as a chaplain with the (CFD) Chicago Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, while reflecting upon this remarkable legacy of spiritual achievement and academic excellence, we are pleased to recognize, congratulate and honor **Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Clark, II** for the attainment of one of his latest and most revered professional accomplishments - the successful completion of a D.Min. (Doctorate of Ministry) Degree at the historic I.T.C. (Interdenominational Theological Center) in Atlanta, Georgia, where he graduated on May 13, 2017 with honors; and

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WHEREAS, Under the mantle of his strong, selfless spiritual guidance and leadership, the **Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Clark, II** has successfully led the congregation of **St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church**, located at **655 East 88th Street** in Chicago to be good, engaged and faithful witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Simultaneously, he has served and continues to serve on several governing boards, committees, organizations and as a chaplain with the Chicago Fire Department (CFD). As he celebrates this milestone accomplishment, he also never forgets the importance of working diligently to share the good news of a proud legacy, despite persistent challenges to the strong cultural traditions in the African-American community, to insure that the powerful identity of hard work and faithful service are never ignored, trivialized or suppressed; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, **Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Clark's** reputation for his abiding faith, fairness, spiritual integrity and ability to lead others to Christ has grown exponentially. Ordained on September 10, 1995, he has served in several positions within the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**, and is also revered by his congregation and many in the greater Chicago Lutheran denomination for his deep personal concern and commitment, first to his beloved church and then to the overall community. He is further respected for his unique ability to establish lasting relationships with virtually everyone he encounters; and

WHEREAS, The **Honorable Michelle A. Harris**, Alderman of the **8th Ward** and Chairman of the Committee on Committees, Rules and Ethics, has encouraged the Chicago City Council to salute **Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Clark, II** and his exemplary achievements and accomplishments; now, therefore,

THEREFORE Be It Resolved, That we, the **Mayor** and members of the **City of Chicago City Council**, gathered here this **Twenty-Third Day of May 2018 A.D.**, do hereby salute **Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Clark, II** for the spiritual inspiration and confidence that he has instilled in the lives of hundreds of his loyal church members who participate annually in church and community-based programs, and extend to this outstanding citizen our very best wishes for continuing professional success and spiritual fulfillment.

Be It Further Resolved, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to **Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Clark, II** as a token of our gratitude and esteem.



MICHELLE A. HARRIS
Alderman- 8th Ward