

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

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150th ANNIVERSARY of MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

WHEREAS, since 1873, Mount Olive Baptist Church of Arlington has served as a haven of faith and a pillar of service for its congregation and the Arlington community at large; and

WHEREAS, the Church began when 85 freed slaves established a new church in the settlement known as “Freedman’s Village,” located in what is now Arlington National Cemetery, and became formally known as Mount Olive Baptist Church in 1874; and

WHEREAS, after locating in the Arlington View community between 1944 and 1989 during Reverend Dr. Aaron Mackley’s significant 55-year pastorship which expanded the congregation and services provided, the Church settled in its current facility in 1989; and

WHEREAS, the Church led a transformative strategic planning process in the early 21st century and licensed its first woman to the gospel ministry, Minister LaVaeda Coulter, in 2007, and shortly thereafter, ordained its first female clergyperson, the Rev. Patricia E. Kelly; and

WHEREAS, under the spiritual guidance and principled leadership of Rev. Dr. James E. Victor, Jr.—now the second longest-serving pastor of Mount Olive—the Church has continued to nurture its congregation while also enriching the broader community; and

WHEREAS, convening Arlington’s historically African American congregations to joint worship and combining forces to address community concerns, being a venue for the community to gather to become engaged or to join in commemorating the lives of those we have lost, Mt. Olive lives up to its aspirations of “Being and Becoming” what God calls on us to be; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christian Dorsey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby recognize the

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of Arlington, and encourage all residents to join us in this special observance, celebrating the contributions this pillar of Arlington has made to our community.



Christian Dorsey
Chair