



RESOLUTION NO. 7595

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Commissioners of the Public Building Commission of Chicago were saddened to learn of the death of their beloved and esteemed fellow Commissioner, Bishop Arthur M. Brazier, at the age of 89 years, on October 22, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Brazier rose from humble beginnings on the South Side of Chicago to distinguish himself, with dignity and grace, as a civil rights crusader, community activist, religious leader, civic leader, mentor and inspiration to many in the City of Chicago and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, he was born on July 22, 1921 to the union of Geneva and Robert Brazier and received his education at Douglas Elementary School and Wendell Phillips High School and was inducted into the U. S. Army, during the Great Depression, where he served his country during World War II with pride and distinction; and

WHEREAS, after his discharge from the military, he returned to Chicago and worked as a mail carrier, completed a high school correspondence course and attended night school for six years before graduating from Moody Bible Institute in 1956; and

WHEREAS, he was called to the ministry in 1947 and served as pastor of the Apostolic Church of God from 1960 until his retirement in 2008, during which tenure he guided the church through several significant expansions and an extraordinary growth in membership from approximately 100 members to more than 20,000 members; and

WHEREAS, while working with Saul Alinsky, in 1961 Bishop Brazier founded The Woodlawn Organization (T.W.O.) and served as T.W.O.'s president for nine years while providing leadership and direction to organizing the Woodlawn neighborhood and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, as founding Chairman of the Board of the Woodlawn Preservation and Investment Corporation and founding Chairman of the Board of The Fund for Community Redevelopment and Revitalization, Bishop Brazier was instrumental in the revitalization of the East Woodlawn and North Kenwood-Oakland communities; and

WHEREAS, along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other religious and community leaders, Bishop Brazier organized protests and marches in Chicago against segregation in housing and education and provided leadership and inspiration to community activists devoted to the eradication of racial prejudice and segregation throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, on August 28, 1986, he was appointed by Mayor Harold Washington, with the advice and consent of the City Council, as a statutorily-mandated representative of the City of Chicago on the Board of Commissioners of the Public Building Commission of Chicago and served with dedication, devotion and distinction as a Commissioner until his death; and

WHEREAS, as Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Public Building Commission, Bishop Brazier provided strong stewardship and guidance to the Commission and its independent auditors with respect to the financial affairs, internal controls and practices and the fiscal integrity of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Brazier made invaluable contributions to the Public Building Commission in the implementation of its statutory mission of constructing public improvements, buildings and facilities on behalf of various public agencies including the City of Chicago, the Chicago Board of Education, City Colleges of Chicago and the Chicago Park District; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as a Commissioner of the Public Building Commission, the Commission constructed numerous schools, campus parks, branch libraries, police and fire stations, parks and other public improvements that enhance the quality of life and protect the safety of the citizens of the City of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Arthur M. Brazier will be fondly remembered for his dedication as a community and religious leader, devotion to his family and his church, loyalty, commitment to helping others, warmth and integrity:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chairman and Members of the Board of Commissioners of the Public Building Commission publicly note, with great sorrow and regret, the death of Bishop Arthur M. Brazier, extend our sincere condolences his widow, Mrs. Esther Isabelle Brazier, his children, Dr. Byron T. Brazier, Lola Hillman, Janice Dortch and Rosalyn Shepherd, family and friends, and further express our gratitude for his devoted service to the Public Building Commission of Chicago.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director of the Public Building Commission is hereby authorized and directed to present a suitable memento of this Resolution to his family and his widow, Mrs. Esther Isabelle Brazier.

Honorable Richard M. Daley,

Mayor

December 16, 2010