



## A PROCLAMATION

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA

### In Recognition of 147 Years *Mt. Zion Baptist Church*

- Whereas, Mt. Zion Baptist Church is celebrating 147 years of faith, community and service in Smyrna, Georgia; and
- Whereas, among the predominantly African American church congregations of Cobb County, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church is one of the oldest, and the oldest in Smyrna; and
- Whereas, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church was organized to serve the growing African American community of Davenport Town, a small community situated on the eastern edge of Smyrna across from the only African American cemetery at the time, the historic Mt. Zion Cemetery; and
- Whereas, in 1877, the Rev. George Lloyd and others organized the church. The first pastor of Mt. Zion was the Rev. Harper Hines, followed by Reverends Lloyd, Drew, Allen and Bugg. Reverend Henry D. Davenport served as pastor for fifty (50) years from 1909-1959, followed by Reverend L.C. Malone from 1959-1983. Reverend John C. Hearst served several years as pastor starting in 1984, followed by Pastor Richard L. Bush. The current Pastor Tyler C. Cook began his service with Mt. Zion in March 2023; and
- Whereas, in 1949, the Mt. Zion Baptist Church congregation began moving to its present location at the corner of Hawthorne and Davenport Street, and in 1951, the Cobb County Commission authorized the construction of a new Mt. Zion Baptist Church; and
- Whereas, since its inception 147 years ago, Mt. Zion Baptist Church has been a steadfast pillar in the Smyrna community, fostering spiritual growth, fellowship, and service; NOW,
- Therefore, I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, do hereby proclaim May 20, 2024, as a day of recognition for Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and urge all citizens to join us in celebrating this momentous occasion.



*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Smyrna to be affixed upon this 20th day of May in the year of Our Lord 2024.*

*Derek Norton*

Mayor

*Derek Norton*