State of Tennessee

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 10

By Representatives Clemmons, Gilmore, Love, Beck, Jones

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Reverend Bill Barnes for his visionary service in helping establish an affordable housing trust fund for Nashville.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute a gentleman who is a lifelong advocate for social justice and affordable housing and who has worked to improve housing conditions throughout Davidson County for more than five decades; and

WHEREAS, this gentleman is Reverend Bill Barnes, Methodist minister and civil rights activist; the founding pastor of Nashville's Edgehill United Methodist Church, he is still active in the community as a champion of the rights of the poor and the marginalized; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Yale Divinity School, Reverend Barnes has also served as vice president of the Tennessee Council of Human Relations, Middle Tennessee; in 2007, he published *To Love a City*, a book that chronicles his ministry in the Edgehill community; and

WHEREAS, among his many and various accomplishments, perhaps the most impressive and most important is his work in establishing a housing trust fund to build more affordable housing units in the Nashville area for working families; thanks to Reverend Barnes, this fund is now a reality and is named in his honor: the Barnes Fund for Affordable Housing; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Bill Barnes garnered support for the fund for seventeen years before Mayor Karl Dean announced his administration's establishment of an affordable housing trust fund for Nashville in 2013 and provided three million dollars in unused grant funds to kick start the project; and

WHEREAS, the primary charge of the Barnes Housing Trust Fund is to encourage the development and provision of quality affordable housing and expand access to affordable housing for households earning less than sixty percent of the median family income; and

WHEREAS, the Barnes Fund for Affordable Housing is expected to generate 100 new affordable homes, while improving the affordability of 200 existing housing opportunities, each year, all supported by grants and ongoing annual investments from capital budget funds; and

WHEREAS, the Barnes Fund for Affordable Housing is providing a valuable social service to the people of Nashville; according to a recent study, well over one-third of Nashville/Davidson County residents are cost-burdened homeowners or renters, meaning that they are paying more than thirty percent of their gross household income on housing and related costs; and

WHEREAS, a true minister of the people, Reverend Barnes has never shied away from unpopular causes, provided that they are just causes; he was an instrumental figure in Nashville's civil rights movement in the 1960s, and his voice is one of compassion and humanity as he speaks on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Barnes understands the necessity of affordable housing in the urban core of Nashville, and his contributions to creating an affordable housing trust fund will greatly benefit current and future generations of homeowners in the city; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Reverend Bill Barnes for his ongoing commitment to the working families of Nashville; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and

commend Reverend Bill Barnes for his visionary service in helping establish an affordable housing trust fund for Nashville, salute his career as a minister, civil rights advocate, and champion of the poor and marginalized, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: February 2, 2017

BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES