

Proclamation

CITY OF RACINE, WISCONSIN

Whereas: Saint Paul Baptist Church is Racine's oldest, historically African American church congregation, tracing its origins to 1857, eight years before the abolition of slavery; and

Whereas: Saint Paul has been a leading presence in the Racine community, its significance growing palpably under the leadership of the Reverend Lawrence Lee Kirby, who was called to the church's pastorate in 1981; and

Whereas: Bishop Kirby has led Saint Paul in many enhancements and initiatives that have improved life for many in Racine, including: construction of Saint Paul Gardens Apartments; conversion of the historic Saint Rose's Catholic Church into the Miracle Center; establishment of the Good Samaritan Center and Food Pantry; and plans to add decent, affordable housing in the church's neighborhood by constructing another apartment complex, Saint Paul Commons; and

Whereas: Bishop Kirby has used his leadership and creativity during his time at Saint Paul to bring about many other ministries designed to meet community needs including: Hope House (foster home for boys), Child Development Center (daycare and preschool), Godfathers/Godmothers (youth mentoring programs), and Saint Paul Economic Development, Inc. (umbrella for many of the church's initiatives over the years); and

Whereas: Bishop Kirby has led the Saint Paul congregation with infectious zeal, energy, and optimism for nearly four decades and has been in Christian ministry for five decades.

Now Therefore: I, Cory Mason, the Mayor of Racine Wisconsin, do hereby announce and proclaim Sunday, June 7, 2020, as

Bishop Lawrence Lee Kirby Day in the City of Racine

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Racine to be affixed this 2nd day of June, 2020.

**Accomplished at the City Hall
this 2nd Day of June 2020.**

Mayor