REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 9.

DATE OF MEETING: February 21, 2011

REQUESTED BY: Commissioner Jimmy Tate

SHORT TITLE: Resolution Recognizing the Contributions of Reverend Aaron Johnson

BACKGROUND: Reverend Aaron Johnson has been an advocate for social justice during his life and career in North Carolina. He served as the State's Corrections Secretary for seven years under Governor Martin, and is credited with numerous transformations in the prison system during that time, including a prison ministry called Starting Line that began in 1992. He pastored the Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville for 45 years, and his work in the ministry continues. A resolution highlighting the contributions of Reverend Aaron Johnson is attached.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To consider a resolution adopting the resolution entitled "Resolution Recognizing the Contributions of Reverend Aaron Johnson".

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Respectfully recommend approval.

RB
Initial

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Pender County Board of Commissioners that:

the Board hereby adopts the resolution entitled "Resolution Recognizing the Contributions of Reverend Aaron Johnson". The Chairman/County Manager is authorized to execute any/all documents necessary to implement this resolution.

AMENDMENTS:

MOVED_____ SECONDED_____

APPROVED_____ DENIED_____UNANIMOUS

YEA VOTES: Brown___ Tate ___ Rivenbark ___ Ward___ Williams ___

_____ 2/21/11
George R. Brown, Chairman Date

_____ 2/21/11
ATTEST Date

RESOLUTION HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF REVENEND AARON JOHNSON

WHEREAS, *Reverend Aaron Johnson was born a sharecropper's son in rural North Carolina in the Willard community of Pender County; and*

WHEREAS, *Reverend Aaron Johnson has worked tirelessly as an advocate for social justice during his life and career; and*

WHEREAS, *Reverend Aaron Johnson has served in the ministry for 60 years, and served as Pastor of the Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Fayetteville, North Carolina for 45 years; and*

WHEREAS, *Reverend Aaron Johnson advised three North Carolina governors on race relations and served as the State's Correction Secretary from 1985 until 1992 under Governor Jim Martin; and*

WHEREAS, *during his seven years as the State's Correction Secretary Reverend Aaron Johnson oversaw the transformation of the prisons' healthcare delivery system including instituting innovative inmate treatment rehabilitative programs; and*

WHEREAS, *seeing the need for spiritual transformation in prisoners in North Carolina's prison system, Reverend Aaron Johnson planned and implemented a wide-scale prison fellowship revival in 94 North Carolina prisons in 1992 called "Starting Line", fulfilling a promise made years earlier to death row inmates; and*

WHEREAS, *in the fall of 1992, the inaugural Starting Line evangelistic campaign swept through all of North Carolina's prisons sharing the life-changing message of Jesus Christ; and*

WHEREAS, *today the campaign has grown into an affiliation of 37 ministries committed to prison evangelism;*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED *by the Pender County Board of Commissioners, that Reverend Aaron Johnson be recognized and honored for his numerous life's contributions to the people of North Carolina through his transformation of the state prisons as the State's Corrections Secretary between 1985 and 1992, through his tireless advocacy social justice during his life and career, and through his vision to create a sweeping prison ministry called Starting Line throughout the 94 prisons in the State of North Carolina.*

This the 21st day of February, 2011.

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George R. Brown, Jr., Chairman
Pender County Board of Commissioners