

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Proclaiming)
the Accomplishments of the late)
Dr. O.B. Williams, Founder and)
Pastor of Vancouver Avenue)
First Baptist Church)

PROCLAMATION
93-200

WHEREAS, in March 1945, Dr. O.B. Williams became the leader of a small group of Christians at Burton Homes Government Project in Vancouver, Washington;

WHEREAS, in 1947, Dr. O.B. Williams promoted the purchase of a small building in Portland and began to organize the church in working departments and auxiliaries consisting of mission, education, music, ushering, and youth;

WHEREAS, in 1949, Dr. O.B. Williams guided the purchase of The Central Methodist Church located at 3138 N. Vancouver Avenue and shortly afterwards, as the membership increased, a remodeling project enlarging the sanctuary for worship and adding educational facilities;

WHEREAS, in 1951, Dr. O.B. Williams organized and served as President of the General Baptist Convention of the Northwest, at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church purchasing the Beech Street Elementary School, now known as the O.B. Williams Convention Center, which has been the meeting place for two "fledgling" churches and several other organizations;


WHEREAS, during his long and fruitful ministry, Dr. O.B. Williams has served in various capacities on a multitude of levels including the first black to serve on the Board of Directors of the Oregon Council of Alcohol Problems; member of the National Baptist Publishing Board; Executive Secretary of Home Mission Board of the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America; past member of the Board of Directors of Emanuel Hospital; member of Model Cities; member of the Board of Directors of The Greater Portland Council of Churches; Chairman of the Albina War on Poverty Committee; and member of the Metropolitan Steering Committee's War on Poverty;

WHEREAS, today, as a result of Dr. O.B. Williams' sound leadership and faith in God, the membership of Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church is over 1500 with property valued at over \$1.5 million which includes the resourceful educational annex and a church van to transport Sunday schoolers and church members to various functions;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims recognition of the late Dr. O.B. Williams, the visionary and community leader who wisely and faithfully led the Baptist convention for 41 years and the church for 48 years as councilor and minister, until his passing May 18, 1993.

APPROVED THIS 3rd DAY OF June 1993.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Hank Miggins
Acting Multnomah County Chair

