

2020 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY SENATOR BARROW

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Zion City on the occasion of its 100 year anniversary.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Zion City on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

3 WHEREAS, the one-street neighborhood known as Zion City was once one of North
4 Baton Rouge's most self-sufficient neighborhoods; and

5 WHEREAS, African-American families, mostly with East Feliciana Parish or West
6 Feliciana Parish roots, founded Zion City in 1920, as a local white landowner sold the first
7 lots that year; and

8 WHEREAS, children of the community attended school at the Greater Beechgrove
9 Missionary Baptist which at that time was on Hooper Road; and

10 WHEREAS, Zion City residents came together in late 1938 and decided to have a
11 school for their children and in the fall of 1950, the initial first grade class entered the Zion
12 City Elementary School, which not only housed students of Zion City, but also those that
13 lived in the Dixie community; and

14 WHEREAS, for many years, Zion City Elementary School served as the center of
15 the community, providing a place of enrichment and nourishment to the children of that
16 district; and

17 WHEREAS, the school closed thirty years later due to desegregation of the East
18 Baton Rouge Parish School System; and

1 WHEREAS, the area evolved into a community that consisted of many
2 African-American businesses owned by those who lived in the community; and

3 WHEREAS, from the historic Gardenia Club to what was once Caruso & Sons, Zion
4 City was an exuberant residential and commercial center with an array of churches, cafes,
5 clubs, and stores and a few streets over in Fortune Park Addition was the United States Post
6 Office; and

7 WHEREAS, over the years there has been some decay, but native son Councilman
8 Charles R. Kelly, was elected as District 5 Councilman which included the Zion City
9 community, and the community grew and incorporated services and programs that would
10 improve the quality of life for those who lived and worked there; and

11 WHEREAS, today the community with its colorful residents, proudly celebrates one
12 hundred years of resilience by connecting with the past and planning how to move forward
13 into the next hundred years; and

14 WHEREAS, the Zion City 100 Year Planning Committee will be unveiling a plan
15 for beautification, crime prevention, and economic development later this summer in
16 celebration of the one hundredth birthday of the community; and

17 WHEREAS, the citizens of Zion City merit a sincere and heartfelt measure of
18 commendation upon the memorable and historic occasion of their community's centennial
19 anniversary and for the tremendous pride and honor they bring to their community, East
20 Baton Rouge Parish, and the state of Louisiana.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
22 does hereby commend Zion City on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary, does
23 hereby commend the citizens of Zion City both past and present, for their outstanding
24 accomplishments and for their extraordinary contributions to their community and state,
25 does hereby record the singular place that Zion City holds in the history and future of
26 Louisiana, and does hereby extend to the citizens of Zion City best wishes for continued
27 success and happiness in all of their future endeavors and as they commemorate this special
28 anniversary.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

SR 43 Original	2020 First Extraordinary Session	Barrow
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