



Legislation Text

File #: RES 17-660, **Version:** 1

Co-naming a portion of Burns Avenue in honor of Dr. Earl F. Miller, Sr.

WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Earl Fredrick Miller, Sr., - born in Jackson, Mississippi and married 52 years to his wife, Eunice, who together have three children, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandson - is a well-known, widely traveled, and highly-respected preacher, scholar, teacher and community leader; and,

WHEREAS, since 1992 when Dr. Miller became the Senior Pastor and leader of Progressive Baptist Church, his accomplishments during his 24-year tenure include growing the membership from 21 members to over 1,500, and the completion of a new \$5.3 million church sanctuary and family life center in 2008 in Saint Paul; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Miller's many honors include being named as one of the 10 most influential clergy in the Twin Cities; being a recipient of the Spurgeon Award, the highest community service award given by the Boy Scouts of America; and in 2009 being honored by inclusion in the Minnesota African American Heritage Calendar; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Miller's service has included his roles as a former member of the Saint Paul Planning Commission, past president of the Saint Paul NAACP, former member of the Minnesota Council of Churches, past president of the Minnesota State Baptist Convention and the Minnesota State Baptist Congress, member and past president of the Saint Paul Interdenominational Black Ministerial Alliance, past president of the Rainbow Children's Theatre, past president of the Pilgrim Foundation for Urban, Social and Educational Development, past president of Proceed, Inc; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Miller's academic appointments include serving on the faculties as a professor at Augsburg College, Bethel Theological Seminary and Virginia Union School of Theology, and as the Dean of Student Affairs at Virginia Union University; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Miller has also excelled as an actor, performing the lead role for the past 28 years in the award winning Broadway musical "Gospel at Colonus," and during the first four years, performing with and mentoring the renowned actor Morgan Freeman, and additionally performing at venues including Carnegie Hall, The Apollo Theater, The Ordway Theater and Guthrie Theater, and other venues across the country and around the world; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Miller has served faithfully for more than 48 years, providing strong leadership and wise counsel by various means including hospital visits, weddings, funerals, character references, late night phone calls and prison visits, the City of Saint Paul wishes to honor Dr. Miller on the occasion of his retirement as an esteemed leader and highly respected member of the Saint Paul community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Burns Avenue between White Bear Avenue and Upper Afton Road is hereby co-named Dr. Earl F. Miller Drive and that appropriate signage will be placed along that length of Burns Avenue.