



SPECIAL PROCLAMATION NO 04-2024

**A SPECIAL PROCLAMATION AWARDED BY SOUTH BEND COMMON COUNCIL
PRESIDENT AND THIRD DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE SHARON MCBRIDE
AT-LARGE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, KAREN L. WHITE,
AT-LARGE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE DR. OLIVER J. DAVIS,
FIRST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE, CANNETH LEE,
SECOND DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE, OPHELIA GOODEN RODGERS,
FIFTH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE, SHERRY BOLDEN -SIMPSON**

**HONORING
SUPERINTENDENT SAMUEL LEE DIGGINS, SR.
A LIFE TO BE HONORED**

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT

**‘The Steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and delighteth in his way.’
Psalm 37: 23**

Whereas, as President of the South Bend Common Council and Third District Representative, I and At-Large Council Representative Karen L. White, At-Large Council Representative Dr. Oliver D. Davis, First District Representative Canneth Lee, Second District Representative Ophelia Gooden Rodgers, Fifth District Representative Sherry Bolden-Simpson, and the City of South Bend, Indiana, are humbled to honor and officially recognize the many contributions of Superintendent Samuel Lee Diggins, Sr., to the South Bend community, residents and throughout the State of Indiana; and

Whereas, Superintendent Samuel Lee Diggins, Sr., was born in Forrest City, Arkansas on July 17th, 1937 to Bennie F. Diggins, and Dempsey L. Diggins. On March 21, 2024, his earthly journey ended, and his spiritual journey began with the divine promises and the comforting assurance knowing that his early home was but a temporary pilgrimage toward everlasting life; and

Whereas, In 1961, the love of his life, Ruth Watkins his soulmate, was bestowed upon him by divine providence. Their hearts intertwined, guided by a celestial hand, and their journey together became a testament to the beauty of love and companionship for sixty-two (62) years. They were blessed with five (5) sons and one (1) daughter, who honored him and loved him dearly, twenty-six (26) grandchildren, fourteen (14) great grandchildren and eight (8) great-great grandchildren; and

Whereas, Superintendent Samuel Diggins, Sr. Retired from the South Bend Community School Corporation after seventeen (17) years of service. While still working he established and was the owner of the Diggins Painting and Drywall Company. Widely known and respected for their excellent service and professionalism; and

Whereas, He accepted the call to ministry under the leadership of Pastor Harrison Wiley and in 1987 he accepted the leadership responsibility of Believers COGIC., as Pastor. He held many titles in the church and remained a faithful servant; and

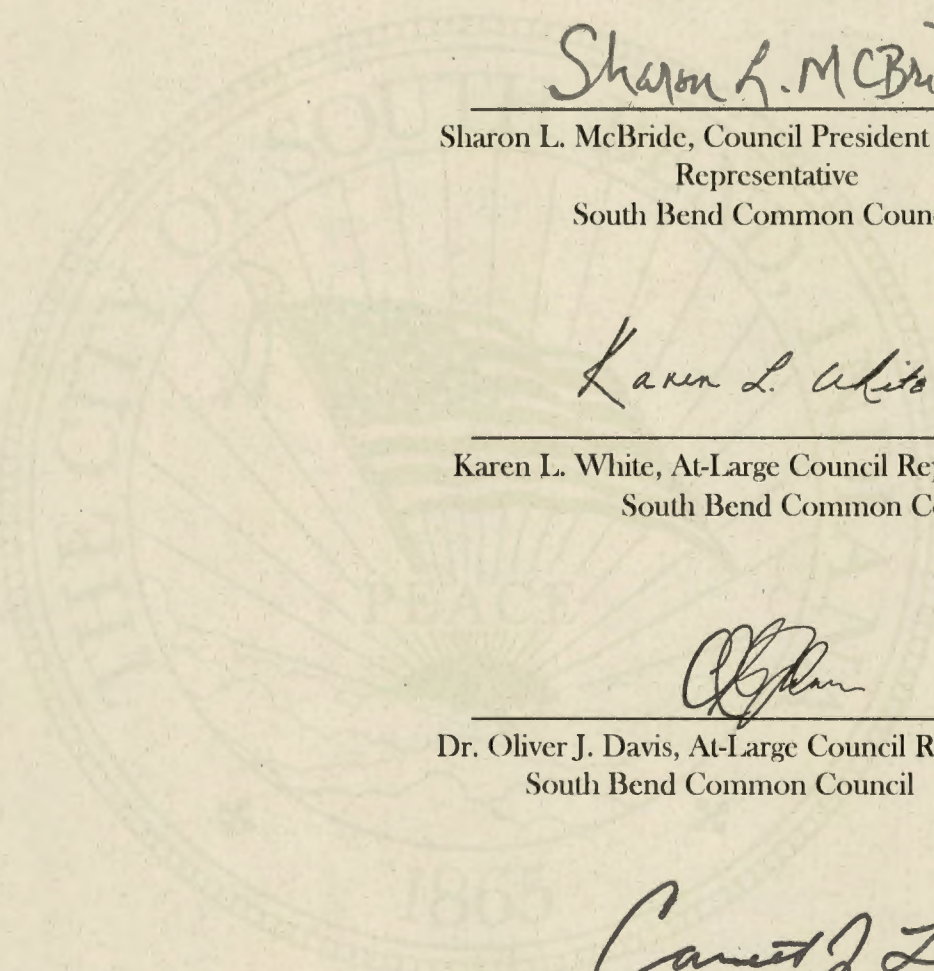
Whereas, Superintendent Diggins walked the sacred path of righteousness, holiness and was a man of faith. He loved God and God’s people. He was a spiritual leader in our community, a figure of immense influence and respect. His impact extends beyond religious boundaries; and



Whereas, We offer our sincere condolences to First Lady Ruth Diggins and the entire Diggins family during this difficult time. May you find comfort and strength in the memories you shared and the love that surrounds you.

Section I. It is our distinct honor to publicly commend and honor the life and service of Superintendent Samuel Lee Diggins, Sr., for his innumerable contributions to our community.

Signed this day of April 6, 2024 in the City of South Bend, the County of St. Joseph, the State of Indiana.



Sharon L. McBride

Sharon L. McBride, Council President & 3rd District Representative
South Bend Common Council

Karen L. White

Karen L. White, At-Large Council Representative
South Bend Common Council

Dr. Oliver J. Davis

Dr. Oliver J. Davis, At-Large Council Representative
South Bend Common Council

Canneth Lee

Canneth Lee, 1st District Representative
South Bend Common Council

Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers

Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers, 2nd District Representative
South Bend Common Council

Sherry L. Bolden-Simpson

Sherry Bolden-Simpson, 5th District Representative
South Bend Common Council

