

RESOLUTION - 2025

WHEREAS, the Emergency Tenant Protection act of 1974, Chapter 576, Laws of 1974 is in effect; and

WHEREAS, under the Act, the Westchester County Board of Legislators recommends for appointment to the Rent Guidelines Board persons to be representatives of tenants, owners of property, and the public sector, and the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (“DHCR”) is the appointing authority; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists for the Public Member position on the Westchester County Rent Guidelines Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Legislators Committee on Appointments has done due diligence and recommends to the Board a candidate who meets the requirements of the ETPA of 1974; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Board of Legislators does hereby recommend for appointment by the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal Gregory Robeson Smith, of White Plains, New York, as Public Member of the Westchester County Rent Guidelines Board for a term to commence upon approval by DHCR and expire on December 31, 2029.

Dated: April 28, 2025
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

Gregory Robeson Smith, MBA, MDIV, EdD, DMin

Dr. Smith is truly the renaissance person who has successfully integrated a successful career as a business, public servant and a religious leader. He has more than twenty years of successful management in senior management positions with responsibility for \$2+ Billion in revenue, and marketing of multi-national organizations, multi-million-dollar fund raising campaigns. Along with a proven track record of success leading non-governmental, private voluntary and religious agencies, and Fortune 100 companies, he also has strong expertise in the development of strategic alliances between public and private sectors.

Dr Smith is the senior Pastor of the oldest African American Congregation in Westchester County organized in 1827 the Mt Hope A.M.E. Zion Church. He is currently the President of the Mt Hope Community Development Corporation; Prince Hall Housing Development Fund Inc. & Prince Hall Fund Inc. a multi- million dollar non-for-profit 501(c)3 foundation providing program funds/grants to entities: To relieve the poor, distressed, and underprivileged in the State of New York with regard to professional, financial, physical, educational, and emotional needs. To further the standard of living of underprivileged areas in the State of New York by encouraging community engagement through housing and community services and economic development programs

He holds and has held several major positions in the A.M.E. Zion Church: President Presiding Elder's Council; senior member of the Connectional Budget Board Executive Committee and the denomination's Director and founder Department of Public Affairs and Convention Manager, the youngest person to ever be elected a Worldwide officer. He is served his 8 terms as Executive Director of the AME Zion Church Ministers & Lay Association.

He was appointed December 1990 by President Bush as President and Chief Executive Officer of the African Development Foundation, an independent Federal agency in Washington, D.C., with offices in 25 African nations and staff of 3000+. Dr. Smith continued to serve in this position in the Clinton Administration. The Agency effectively works with the most vulnerable in communities. USADF awards small grants (up to \$250,000) for technical assistance and capacity building to grassroots organizations, cooperatives and community enterprises that strengthen local institutions and achieve lasting impact.

It was also Director of International Disaster Response for Church World Service an entity of the National Council Churches. His responsibility was to direct worldwide international relief assistance and aid on behalf of 30-member Protestant denominations where he raised more than \$200 million in program support.

A graduate with honors from Livingstone College (Salisbury, North Carolina), Dr. Smith also earned two Masters Degrees and two Doctoral degrees; MBA Degree in Marketing and Finance (University of Wisconsin); a Master of Divinity Degree (Union Theological Seminary); Doctorate in Higher Education Administration and Finance (Columbia University Teachers College; and a Doctorate in Ministries (United Theological Seminary.

Dr. Smith is a 33° Mason and Past Grand Master of the 10,000 members Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New York and was designated one of the Outstanding Men of America; Member of Sigma Pi Phi – Beta Zeta Boulé; Omega Psi Phi Fraternities; and a member of Kappa Delta Phi National Education Honor Society. He serves and has served as an officer and member of numerous boards of directors, including the White Plains NY Housing Authority, and Westchester Community College Board of Trustees.

Dr. Smith was interviewed and videotaped by "The History Makers" designated him as one of the "Outstanding Men of America. He was the first African American in New York State to be selected by a major political party as their mayoral candidate; and continues to be active in local, State and national political arenas.

Under his leadership he is building a \$40 million 56-unit apartment senior citizens affordable housing project which will consist of 48 one-bedroom units and 8 two-bedroom apartments.

Dr. Smith is the grand nephew of the late great Paul Robeson. He is married Dr. Brenda L. G. Smith former Superintendent of Schools Mt. Vernon NY. He has traveled to every country in Africa except five, and over 30 other nations of the world. His philosophy of life and service is stated in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. who said in 1948 on his application to Crozer Seminary, ***"I have an inescapable urge to serve society, and a sense of responsibility, which I could not escape."***