

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Richmond Mayor Rev. Robert Blythe.

2 WHEREAS, Rev. Robert Richard Blythe was born in Richmond, Kentucky, on
3 November 5, 1949, the cherished son of Richard and Vashti Blythe; and

4 WHEREAS, Rev. Blythe graduated from Eastern Kentucky University, the
5 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Covington Theological Schools; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1980, Rev. Blythe answered his call to the ministry, preaching his
7 first sermon at the New Hope Baptist Church in Akron, Ohio. He went on to become the
8 pastor of his beloved home church, the First Baptist Church of Richmond; and

9 WHEREAS, Rev. Blythe has served as an officer of the Mt. Pleasant District
10 Association for several years and as a member of the General Association of Baptists in
11 Kentucky for more than three decades. He has served as Dean, Vice President, and
12 President of the Baptist Unified Christian Leadership Conference, and in 2009 he began
13 serving as an instructor for the National Baptist Publishing Board Sunday School and
14 Baptist Training Union Congress; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2008, Rev. Blythe was inducted into the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
16 International Board of Preachers at historic Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Four
17 years later he was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award
18 by the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Eastern Kentucky University; and

19 WHEREAS, Rev. Blythe has dedicated his life to improving his community and to
20 helping the families of Richmond. To that end, in 2002 Rev. Blythe was elected to the
21 Richmond City Commission. After serving eight terms as Commissioner, Rev. Blythe
22 was elected Mayor of Richmond in 2018; and

23 WHEREAS, Rev. Blythe is Richmond's first African-American mayor; and

24 WHEREAS, Rev. Blythe, who ran on a platform of keeping Richmond clean and
25 safe, has also vowed to ensure seniors and children fit in with those objectives; and

26 WHEREAS, Rev. Blythe is a firm believer that religion and politics are compatible,
27 and has promised to bring his Christian ideals into his role as Mayor; and

1 WHEREAS, it is rightful that this honorable body commend those elected officials
2 who have not only taken up the mantle of public service with courage and the utmost
3 hope for their communities, but also have broken through racial barriers to stand as
4 shining examples to other Kentuckians who might seek public office; and

5 WHEREAS, Rev. Robert Blythe is one such Kentuckian, and on this day all in this
6 body grant him very best wishes as he begins his tenure as the Mayor of Richmond, and
7 duly thank him for all he has done on behalf of his congregants and the citizens he has
8 been elected to serve;

9 NOW, THEREFORE,

10 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
11 ***Kentucky:***

12 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby congratulate Rev. Robert Blythe,
13 and commend him for his contributions to this Commonwealth's faith community as well
14 as grant him very best wishes as he begins his service as the Mayor of Richmond,
15 Kentucky.

16 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Rev.
17 Robert Blythe.

18 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
19 Resolution to Senator Gerald A. Neal.