



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF NEW YORK

Proclamation

Whereas, Religious communities across the five boroughs are essential threads in the rich cultural tapestry that unites and sustains New Yorkers—they remind us of our responsibility to lift one another up every day, and inspire others to act with charity, kindness, and love. The values of compassion and generosity, for which our city is known, have long been upheld by the many houses of worship that become pillars in their communities. In that spirit, today I am pleased to join in celebrating the 30th anniversary of Jamaica 1st Ward, a local congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) for southeast Queens.

Whereas, Joseph B. Wirthlin, a member of the LDS's Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, stated that, "Faith is not so much something we believe; faith is something we live." The act of living one's faith is a tenet taken seriously by members of LDS, which has had a virtually continuous presence in New York State for nearly 200 years, after the first group of converts from Liverpool, England arrived on a ship in New York Harbor in July 1840. The Jamaica 1st Ward — originally called the Jamaica 1st Branch — was organized as a local LDS congregation on December 5, 1993. They first gathered in a rented space on the second level of the Jamaica Market, and moved to its current home, at 89-58 163rd Street in the heart of Jamaica, in 2012. This congregation is, in many ways, a microcosm of our most diverse borough, with many of its members hailing from 24 different countries. They live their faith by providing meaningful service to each other and to the community, in various capacities, through assignments known as "callings." Everyone, from the bishop and Sunday school teachers to elders and parishioners, is called upon to serve on a volunteer basis without pay. They have organized and participated in efforts to clean and beautify central Jamaica, support food pantries, and promote awareness of the COVID-19 vaccine and overcome vaccine hesitancy.

Whereas, Faith is the driving force of any great mission, and my Administration is committed to ensuring that people of all beliefs and cultures feel respected, safe, and welcome in our city. I am proud to count Jamaica 1st Ward as an ally in this mission and applaud its leadership and parishioners for its tremendously positive impact on so many New Yorkers. Together, we will forge a better, brighter future for all.

*Now therefore, I, Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York, do hereby proclaim
Tuesday, December 5th, 2023, in the City of New York as:*

The Jamaica 1st Ward Day



Eric Adams
Eric Adams
Mayor