September 6, 2016

Board of Trustees

Village of Ossining

16 Croton Avenue

Ossining, NY 105623

Dear Village Trustees:

The Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church has been a fixture of outreach and love in the Village of Ossining for over 125 years. During our 126-year history we have been blessed to only have 11 Pastors. Our longest tenured Pastor was Reverend Julius W. Cofield Sr, he served Star of Bethlehem and Ossining from 1939 – 1973. As a result of his impact on the church and Village of Ossining we are requesting that either Spring Street, between Broad and James, or Independence Place be named in his honor.

As our visionary leader, Reverend Julius W. Cofield Sr. liquidated our church mortgage and other indebted expenses. He acquired additional parking facilities for our membership and an educational and recreational edifice was erected, during his tenure, Star grew spiritually numerically and economically.

Reverend Cofield Sr. was also a dedicated community leader and civic activist. He worked closely with the clergy of different faiths and ethnicities in the community in implementing interfaith services. He attended village and community board meetings to voice his concerns for the betterment of the people. Reverend Cofield Sr. was a known as an advocate for children and education. He regularly attended School Board Meetings and school programs. It was not unheard of to see Pastor Cofield volunteering and patrolling the halls of the schools. Reverend Cofield Sr. partnered with the Village Police Department to promote unity in achieving a safe community. He believed “*were there is unity there is strength*.” Also he served as Chaplin for the Ossining Fire Department.

Again, due to the impact that Rev. Cofield has had on Ossining we are asking that either Spring Street or Impendence Place (where he lived) be renamed “Reverend Julius W. Cofield Senior Street.” We believe the village of Ossining would agree with us that a man of this statue deserves the honor of having this request approved. If you have any further questions concerning this proposal, you can contact me at the church at (914) 762-1360 ext. 2.

Sincerely,



Reverend Shaun Ellison Jones