

MOTION

From October 1, 1987 through June 30, 2025, Reverend Doctor William Saxe Epps has been privileged to serve as Pastor at the historic Second Baptist Church. Since 1987, Pastor Epps has maintained and sustained the relevance and viability of the church's mission "to serve this present age our calling to fulfill".

The Reverend Doctor William Saxe Epps, a native of Rochester, New York, began his tenure at Second Baptist Church, Los Angeles on Thursday, October 1, 1987. Pastor Epps was installed as the eighth Pastor of Second Baptist Church on Sunday, January 31, 1988.

Pastor Epps' preparation for ministry began with a Bachelor of Science degree from (the former) Bishop College in 1966, and a Master of Education degree from Columbia University in 1970. He received the Doctor of Ministry degree at St. Mary's Seminary and University in 1987, and additionally studied at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary and Boston University.

Pastor Epps came to Second Baptist after completing a four year assignment at the historic Second Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan. During his tenure there, the sanctuary of the church was completely renovated and the "Underground Railroad Station" was restored and remodeled as a tourist attraction, as Second Baptist Church of Detroit was one of the last stops for freedom seekers on the way to Canada.

During his tenure at Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles, Pastor Epps achieved several notable accomplishments that positively impacted his congregation for nearly four decades. His tenure included sermons preached, members nurtured, scriptures taught, celebrations of life, sick visitation, community outreach, and immeasurably more.

In addition to his theological achievements, Pastor Epps has proved to be civically engaged throughout the Los Angeles community, providing uninterrupted service to five Mayors of Los Angeles as a Commissioner of the Affordable Housing Commission. Pastor Epps has served as Commissioner alongside Mayor Richard Riordan, Mayor James K. Hahn, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor Eric Garcetti and Mayor Karen Bass, making him the longest tenured Commissioner in the City of Los Angeles.


Furthermore, Pastor Epps' leadership continues to spread globally and nationwide, as he actively participates in the Baptist World Alliance, the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Incorporated, the American Baptist Churches of America and the Progressive National Baptist Convention. Additionally, Pastor Epps serves as a Board Member for the Ministers & Missionaries Benefits Board as well as Bread for the World.

In recognition of the legacy and cultural impact that Pastor William S. Epps has made locally, nationally, and universally, and to ensure that this piece of Los Angeles and Black history be preserved, it is appropriate that the City name the intersection of Griffith Avenue and 24th Street as the "Rev. Dr. William Saxe Epps Square".


I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection of Griffith Avenue and 24th Street be named as "**Rev. Dr. William Saxe Epps Square**" and that the Department of Transportation be directed to erect permanent ceremonial sign(s) to this effect at this location.


 JUL 01 2025

PRESENTED BY:


 CURREN D. PRICE, JR.
 Councilmember, 9th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL