



STATE SENATOR
CHARLETA B. TAVARES

15TH DISTRICT

Sponsor Testimony
Presented by: Senator Charleta B. Tavares
Senate Bill 136
Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce
Senator Frank LaRose, Chair
Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Good afternoon, Chairman LaRose, Ranking Member Schiavoni and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 136.

SB 136 will designate the entrance ramp from West Broad Street onto interstate route 70 eastbound in Franklin County the “G. Thomas Turner, Sr. I-70 East Entrance Ramp.”

Pastor G. Thomas Turner Sr. celebrated 40 years of work at the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and pastored for 55 years,

touching many lives. Pastor Thomas passed away on October 8, 2014, shortly after his 40th anniversary. SB 136 seeks to honor his legacy and life of service.

Pastor G. Thomas Turner Sr. was wholeheartedly committed to addressing the physical needs of the church and the socioeconomic concerns of the surrounding community. Under Pastor Turner's leadership, numerous ministries were started: Bus Ministry, Computer Ministry, Couples Ministry, Drill Team Ministry, Drug Outreach Ministry, Health Ministry, Pantry Ministry, Prison Ministry, Scholarship Ministry, Sign Ministry and Tutoring Ministry.

Under the leadership of Pastor Turner, the church began to grow at an alarming rate in the first 10 years, which required the church to build a new building in 1983. Pastor G. Thomas Turner, Sr. had a vision for the utilization of the land once considered to be flood lands. After the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church structure was successfully constructed and maintained, Franklinton Square Shopping Center, Rhodes Park, the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio

Department of Public Safety followed with structural development of the adjacent state owned property.

One vision of Pastor Turner was to open a school to be operated on the church premises. In August of 1995, the Friendship Christian Learning Center was founded. The Friendship Christian Learning Center is a childcare center that serves the entire community. It is an extended ministry of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church that promotes Christian learning experiences which enhance cognitive and moral development.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is located at 1775 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio. The leadership wanted to honor Pastor Turner on his 40th anniversary back in September 2014 with the unveiling of the road naming, but it's better late than never to honor the late Pastor for his lifetime of service.

Chairman LaRose and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention to this important issue and I respectfully request your favorable

consideration and passage of Senate Bill 136. Thank you and I am happy to respond to questions from the committee.