

**RESOLUTION 2016-09
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**THE RENAMING OF THE KENT COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING AT 11041
WORTON ROAD, WORTON, MARYLAND**

WHEREAS, Born near Rock Hall on March 21, 1937, Clarence A. Hawkins, Sr., graduated from Henry Highland Garnet High School in Chestertown, and then attended Morgan State College; and

WHEREAS, After teaching in Broward County, Florida and Prince George's County, Maryland, he returned home to Kent County, to work in the Kent County Public School system for 32 years, as a teacher and administrator. He later earned his ministerial degree in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and was pastor of Holy Trinity AME Church in Edesville, near his home; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hawkins was the first African American elected to serve as a Kent County Commissioner serving from 1993 to 1998, the last four years as Chair, was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, a candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates, and served on the Maryland State Board of Education; and

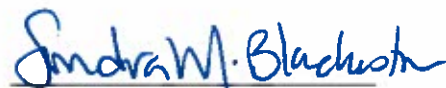
WHEREAS, Reverend Hawkins was instrumental in renaming a road in Edesville for President Barack Obama, naming a Chestertown street after Elmer T. Hawkins, and his vision aided in the preservation of the legacy of Henry Highland Garnet by having a marker placed on Route 291; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hawkins was a familiar presence at events around the County, especially those celebrating African American history and culture. He was a regular attendee of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., breakfast, served as a parade judge at the first Legacy Day celebration, delivered an inspirational prayer at the reopening of the Charles Sumner Post #25, Grand Army of the Republic, and was one of the early members of the Kent County Diversity Dialogue Group.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, We, the County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland, do hereby recognize Reverend Clarence A. Hawkins, Sr., for his positive presence as an elected official, Maryland State Board of Education member, teacher, religious leader, and role model who inspired so many to seek positive involvement. By this resolution, we honor his contributions with the renaming of the Kent County Community Center building at 11041 Worton Road, Worton, Maryland, as the Clarence A. Hawkins, Sr., Community Center.

ATTEST:

**THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND**



Sondra M. Blackiston, Clerk



William W. Pickrum, President



Ronald H. Fithian, Member



William A. Short, Member

ADOPTED: October 4, 2016