

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MINISTERS' CONFERENCE STANDS BY COUNCILMEMBER MARION BARRY

Washington, DC, July 20, 2009 – The Missionary Baptist Ministers' Conference of DC and Vicinity speaks out about the recent allegations made about former DC Mayor and Ward 8 Councilmember Marion Barry.

While we do not condone any inappropriate personal and private actions that may have been made by Councilmember Barry, we do believe that he is being unfairly singled out for an ethics investigation because of his stance against same sex marriage in the District of Columbia by those who have personal agendas and political vendettas. Councilmember Barry has been blatantly called a "bigot" by a member of the Council from the dais with no objection by the Council Chair or any other member of the Council. Unfortunately, there are those within our community who exploit Councilmember Barry's vulnerabilities and seek to destroy him. Marion Barry has a longstanding history in this city, and in many ways, has made a positive impact on the Nation's capitol. As ministers in this city, we will stand with Marion Barry as he faces this recent challenge. We will also continue to pray for the atoning love of God for Marion Barry, as we pray for others.

ABOUT THE MISSIONARY BAPTIST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE – The Missionary Baptist Ministers' Conference of DC and Vicinity, was organized in 1885, and was founded to "promote the interest of the Redeemer's Kingdom, to secure peace and prosperity of local churches, the welfare and harmony of the members to promote the cause of Christian Education and Missionary Causes; to stimulate an interest in all denominational enterprises; and to advance the Kingdom of Christ, for mutual intercourse, for social, intellectual, moral and spiritual improvements." The MBMC consists of a local body of Christian Pastors and Ministers who are affiliated with several National Conventions.

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