

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Junot Diaz upon the occasion of winning the Sunday Times EFG Private Bank Short Story Award 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those American artists who have achieved worldwide recognition, for, in so doing, we also give thanks for our freedom which allows us to create and express ourselves artistically; and

WHEREAS, It is also the tradition of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals of historic and literary significance whose creative talents have contributed to the cultural enrichment of our communities and our Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concerns, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Junot Diaz upon the occasion of winning the Sunday Times EFG Private Bank Short Story Award 2013; and

WHEREAS, Junot Diaz is the author of the critically acclaimed DROWN; THE BRIEF WONDROUS LIFE OF OSCAR WAO, which won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award; and THIS IS HOW YOU LOSE HER, a NEW YORK TIMES bestseller and National Book Award finalist; and

WHEREAS, Junot Diaz' numerous awards and accolades include a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, the PEN/Malamud Award, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Guggenheim Fellowship, the PEN/O. Henry Award, and Rome Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; he was also selected as one of the 39 most important Latin American writers under the age of 39 by the Bogota Book Capital of the World and the Hay Festival; and

WHEREAS, Junot Diaz is regarded as one of the best short story writers of his generation; his short fiction has appeared in THE NEW YORKER, which listed him as one of the 20 top writers for the 21st century, STORY, THE PARIS REVIEW and in several anthologies; and

WHEREAS, Junot Diaz won the prestigious British literary contest with "Miss Lora", a short story from his collection, THIS IS HOW YOU LOSE HER; in addition to the honor, the Times EFG Private Bank Short Story Award carries with it the world's richest short story cash prize; and

WHEREAS, Well known for his ability to seamlessly integrate Spanish into English text, Junot Diaz wrote "Miss Lora" in Spanglish; the judges panel noted that the story stood out "with its precise, unflinching prose, and with its brilliant evocation of an immigrant world struggling with modernity"; and

WHEREAS, Born in the Dominican Republic and raised in New Jersey, Junot Diaz is a graduate of Rutgers College; he is currently the fiction editor at BOSTON REVIEW, and the Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting that we take time to honor our literary giants, recognizing their transcendent ability to reflect the multiple and manifold hopes, dreams and experiences that comprise the American character and their invaluable contributions to the uplift and inspiration of generations and communities across this great State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Junot Diaz upon the occasion of winning the Sunday Times EFG Private Bank Short Story Award 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Junot Diaz.