

BY: Senator PARKER

HONORING Basil Smikle upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Phi Award by the Gamma Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals who have distinguished themselves through their exemplary careers, accomplishments, and purposeful lives of service to their community and their profession; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Basil Smikle upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Phi Award by the Gamma Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., to be celebrated at its Juneteenth Summer Formal on Saturday, June 18, 2022, at Terrace on the Park, Corona, New York; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek letter fraternity established by African-Americans, was founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, by seven visionary men who together with other early leaders of Alpha Phi Alpha succeeded in laying a firm foundation for the fraternity's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character and the uplifting of humanity; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious event offers an opportunity for the Gamma Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to present the distinguished Phi Award to individuals who have made great accomplishments and have helped to better their community; Basil Smikle is one such individual; and

WHEREAS, Basil Smikle served as the Distinguished Lecturer of Politics and Public Policy at the City University of New York's School of Labor and Urban Studies from 2017 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, A key advisor and tremendous public servant who makes sure all voices are heard, Basil Smikle was a senior aide to Hillary Rodham Clinton where he advised the Senator on state-wide policy and politics; and

WHEREAS, Professionally, Basil Smikle worked closely with elected officials and community leaders to manage electoral and fundraising strategies for the State; he recruited candidates for political office and was instrumental in the creation of grassroots mobilization programs; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his renowned and illustrious career, Basil Smikle received countless accolades including awards from both the Governor and the New York State Comptroller for his commitment to public service and education equity; and

WHEREAS, A life-long New Yorker raised in the Bronx by Jamaican immigrants, Basil Smikle is inspired by his father, a retired textile worker, and mother, a long-time public school special education teacher; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Basil Smikle is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons, and 100 Black Men of New York, where he helped start the Eagle Academy in the Bronx which has grown to six schools in New York and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he is a founding Board Member of the Harlem Hebrew Academy Charter School and sits on the Board of the NYC Center for Charter Excellence; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Basil Smikle has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It has always been the objective of this Legislative Body to honor and support those individuals who have displayed their commitment to the betterment of their communities, and it is the intent of this Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records, this tribute to Basil Smikle, that future generations may know and appreciate his admirable character, his many benevolent deeds, and the respect and esteem in which he is held by his peers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Basil Smikle upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Phi Award by the Gamma Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Basil Smikle.