

**BY:** Senator BAILEY

**COMMENDING** DJ Kay Slay, successful New York disc jockey, record executive, and hip-hop pioneer, posthumously for his exemplary service to his community and State

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge and celebrate those who significantly add inspiration and encouragement to the people of this great Empire State; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend DJ Kay Slay, successful New York disc jockey and record executive, and hip-hop pioneer, posthumously for his exemplary service to both his community and State; and

**WHEREAS,** DJ Kay Slay was born on August 14, 1966, in New York City, and was raised in East Harlem; as a child, he was drawn to disco and dancing the hustle, and when early hip-hop DJs began turning breakbeats from those songs into proto-rap music, he traveled to the Bronx to observe and participate in the rising culture; and

**WHEREAS,** DJ Kay Slay took up the affiliated art forms of break dancing and graffiti, even casually rapping with friends, and mastered every element of hip-hop culture; street art became his chief passion, first under the tag Spade 429, and later Dez TFA, which he shortened to Dez; and

**WHEREAS,** Amid the City's crackdown on graffiti, DJ Kay Slay developed a fascination with turntables; in 1989, after a difficult time in his life, he found solace in the Nation of Gods & Earths, and fully immersed himself into performing as a DJ and releasing exclusive mixtapes; and

**WHEREAS,** DJ Kay Slay secured his first multi-million dollar record contract with Columbia Records and released his debut album, "The Streetsweeper, Vol. 1," on May 20, 2003; that summer, he released a single and accompanying music video, "Too Much For Me," which featured a chorus sung by a then up-and-coming singer, Amerie, and verses from American rappers Birdman, Nas, and Foxy Brown; and

**WHEREAS,** His hit song "Too Much For Me" peaked at number 53 on the U.S. Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart; DJ Kay Slay would later go on to release dozens of albums, music projects, and videos and made many guest appearances, culminating in his magnum opus, Rolling 110 Deep; and

**WHEREAS,** DJ Kay Slay was also featured as an on-air radio personality at the world-famous Hot 97; he held the number-one-rated show, called the "Drama Hour," for over 20 years, helping shape Hot 97 into what it is today; and

**WHEREAS,** DJ Kay Slay also founded the longest-running urban print, **Straight Stuntin' Magazine**, and was a consummate business owner, hustler, and entrepreneur; and

**WHEREAS,** DJ Kay Slay served as a crucial bridge between hip-hop generations, developing from a teenage graffiti artist into an innovative radio personality; he was known for his exclusive mixtapes that stoked rap battles and helped change the music business forever; and

**WHEREAS,** DJ Kay Slay was as worthy of praise in his personal life as he was as an artist; he was a man of strong character and is cherished and deeply missed by those he leaves behind; and

**WHEREAS,** DJ Kay Slay is survived by his dear mother, the Honorable Sheila Grayson; brothers, Kwame and Michael Grayson; half-brother, Reggie Jones (aka Smoke 106); his partner, Shea Robinson; his business manager and brother-in-kind, Jarrod Whitaker; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and close friends, a legion of fans and supporters, and hip-hop culture itself; and

**WHEREAS,** The industry giant, DJ Kay Slay, was a compassionate, dedicated man who inspired others with his passion and musical gifts; his dedication to his music leaves an indelible legacy of inspiration which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to his family, friends and countless fans; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor DJ Kay Slay, successful New York disc jockey, record executive and hip-hop pioneer, posthumously for his exemplary service to his community and State; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of DJ Kay Slay.