

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING Billie Mays Jr. upon the occasion of
being inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to outstanding athletes who have distinguished themselves through their exceptional performance, attaining unprecedented success and the highest level of personal achievement; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Billie Mays Jr. upon the occasion of being inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame, to be celebrated at a Ceremony on Sunday, July 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Every year, the Rome Sports Hall of Fame publicly commends the pursuit of athletic excellence, recognizes those who have excelled, and strives to preserve Rome's rich athletic heritage; Billie Mays Jr. is truly deserving of this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, The son of Kathy Upshaw and the man known around Rome as Willie Mays, Billie Mays Jr. grew up on West Fox Street; even though Willie passed away when Billie was a senior in high school, he will always remember the lessons his parents taught him about being the best he can be; and

WHEREAS, Billie Mays Jr. began his football career in the Pop Warner program; with the guidance of several outstanding coaches, he played fullback and linebacker in high school, becoming a perennial all-star, MVP and Black "R" award winner at the Rome Free Academy; and

WHEREAS, Billie Mays Jr. was then recruited to play linebacker at Ithaca College after high school; during his junior year in 1991, the Ithaca Bombers football team played in the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl (the Division III national championship game) and beat Dayton 34-20; Billie and the Bombers defense held Dayton to 13 yards of offense and no 1st downs in the second half to help seal the win, and in that season, he lead the team in tackles and earned All-American honors; and

WHEREAS, After graduating, Billie Mays Jr. coached both football and track at the Rome Free Academy; in this capacity, Coach Mays helped develop several individual sectional champions, a team sectional championship and a few state champions; he also had one undefeated outdoor track season in the spring of 2005; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife Tara, and their two children, Mariah and Billie III, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Billie Mays Jr. has clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of his Rome community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such outstanding athletic accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Billie Mays Jr. upon the occasion of being inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Billie Mays Jr.