

BY: Senator PARKER

HONORING Bunji Garlin upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of an Entrepreneurial Award by the Young, Gifted & Black Entrepreneurial Awards Program

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 Bunji Garlin upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of an Entrepreneurial Award by the Young, Gifted & Black Entrepreneurial Awards Program to be celebrated at the 18th Anniversary of the Young, Gifted & Black Awards Program on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at Terrace On The Park in Queens, New York; and

WHEREAS, Established in 2006 by President/CEO of the NetLinkz Group, Inc., Carl O. Gray, the Young, Gifted & Black (YGB) Entrepreneurial Awards Program recognizes individuals who continue to reach levels of great success through hard work and determination, proving to be inspiring role models to their community and peers; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, the Young, Gifted & Black Entrepreneurial Awards Program acknowledges the talent, ambition, and achievements of African American and Caribbean professionals towards their continued pursuit of success; and

WHEREAS, The Young, Gifted & Black Entrepreneurial Awards Program was launched in honor of Black History Month and shines a light on such accomplished individuals as Bunji Garlin, who truly exemplifies an entrepreneurial spirit; and

WHEREAS, Born in Sangre Grande and raised in the Borough of Arima, Trinidad, Ian Alvarez, better known as Bunji Garlin, is a Trinidadian artist and a vital part of the Soca movement; both a composer and performer of Soca and Ragga Soca, he is a prolific lyricist who calls himself the Lyrics King; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his exemplary career thus far, Bunji Garlin has won numerous Soca competitions and released many award-winning songs, one of which, "Differentology", became one of the NBA's arena anthems and was featured on ABC's "Grey's Anatomy"; and

WHEREAS, Bunji Garlin has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for his steadfast and unrelenting commitment to his profession and community; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife Fay-Ann Lyons, and

their daughter, Syri, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, This award recipient exemplifies the best of his community, by virtue of his energy, vision, and dedication, commanding the greatest respect among his friends and colleagues, and within the community at large; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commend individuals of outstanding character, who have shown initiative and commitment toward constantly pursuing higher goals for themselves, and acting as role models of leadership to be emulated by both peers and young people; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Bunji Garlin upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of an Entrepreneurial Award by the Young, Gifted & Black Entrepreneurial Awards Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bunji Garlin.