

Assembly Resolution No. 761

BY: M. of A. Cruz

COMMEMORATING the 40th Anniversary of Def Jam Recordings, Hip-Hop's most iconic and influential New York Record Label

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor creative institutions who have had a significant impact on the arts and culture of our communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Def Jam Recordings, Hip-Hop's most iconic and influential New York Record Label; and

WHEREAS, Def Jam Recordings, founded in 1984 by two young New York entrepreneurs in the Weinstein Residence Hall of New York University, has been the preeminent record label at the forefront of Hip-Hop music and culture for four decades; and

WHEREAS, Def Jam Recordings is credited with uniting the sounds of Disco, Rock and Roll, and Punk music and igniting the then nascent genre of Hip-Hop; and **WHEREAS,** The investment and expertise of Def Jam Recordings launched the careers of dozens of Hip-Hop, R&B, and popular music legends and icons, including LL Cool J, Slick Rick, The Beastie Boys, Public Enemy, Jay-Z, DMX, Ja Rule, Method Man, Redman, Ludacris, Rihanna, Jeezy, Justin Bieber, Alessia Cara, Logic, Pusha T, Jadakiss, Jeremih, Big Sean, YG, 2 Chainz, Dave East, Jhene Aiko, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Def Jam Recordings continues to innovate, invest, and promote sustainable music careers and entrepreneurial opportunities for Hip-Hop pioneers, while empowering future generations of artists, producers, and lyricists in their pursuit to define the next era of Hip Hop; and

WHEREAS, Def Jam Recordings embodies New York City's vibrant art scene and street culture; and

WHEREAS, Def Jam Recordings is now a global brand - synonymous with creativity, quality, and authenticity - trumpeting Hip-Hop music and culture around the world; and

WHEREAS, Def Jam Recordings' music has often placed a spotlight on societal ills, and been a driving force for meaningful cultural change; and

WHEREAS, Def Jam Recordings produces significant contributions to the State's economy and workforce; and

WHEREAS, Def Jam Recordings brings great pride to both the music industry and the citizens of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body has deep appreciation for the exceptional achievements of Def Jam Recordings, and wishes them continued success for decades to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate and thank Def Jam Recordings for four decades of artistic excellence and cultural export; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Def Jam Recordings.