

Senate Resolution No. 1462

**BY:** Senator PARKER

**HONORING** Autumn Jones upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Nina Simone Artistic Excellence Award in Jazz, R&B, and Soul Music Entertainment by Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, Inc.

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend artists whose creative excellence, authenticity, and cultural impact enrich the musical landscape and advance the enduring legacy of Black artistic expression; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is proud to honor Autumn Jones, acclaimed singer-songwriter and performer, upon her designation as recipient of the Nina Simone Artistic Excellence Award in Jazz, R&B & Soul Music Entertainment by Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, Inc., on Wednesday, February 25, 2026; and

**WHEREAS,** Founded in 2006 by Carl Gray, the Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, Inc., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to recognizing distinguished individuals of color across the Americas, the Caribbean, and Africa, celebrating "Unsung Heroes and Heroines" whose talent, resilience, and leadership have made a lasting cultural and community impact; and

**WHEREAS,** A native of Maplewood, New Jersey, Autumn Jones is an alumna of Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, where she refined her musical craft and developed the soulful, narrative-driven artistry that now defines her work across jazz, R&B, and neo-soul traditions; and

**WHEREAS,** Her music reflects deeply personal storytelling, emotional honesty, and musical sophistication, drawing from lived experience to create songs that resonate with authenticity and timeless soul, and which are available on major digital platforms worldwide; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2024 and 2025, Autumn Jones reached a significant career milestone when she booked her first international tour, performing lead and background vocals for George Michael's tour, The Life and Music of George Michael, with performances spanning Australia and North America; and

**WHEREAS,** In May 2025, Autumn Jones released her debut EP, **4.4.4**, accompanied by a visual short film encompassing all three tracks recorded with her band, The Smoke, at Bunker Studio in Brooklyn, New York, demonstrating her commitment to multidisciplinary storytelling and artistic innovation; and

**WHEREAS,** The project's lead single, "In The Rain," received critical acclaim from **Notion** magazine, which praised the song as "a

neo-soul-style piece with full and effusive vocals," drawing comparisons to the

expressive depth of Corinne Bailey Rae, and the accompanying short film was selected for exhibition at the Bread and Roses Film Festival in Asbury Park, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, Autumn Jones' earlier works have also garnered recognition, including her single "Bittersweet," which received Tracks Music Awards for Best R&B Song and Best Studio Sound in 2021, and "Money Honey Manifest," which was featured in a nationwide Pantene commercial, marking her first successful music synchronization placement; and

**WHEREAS**, As a live performer, she has captivated audiences across the United States and abroad, performing at esteemed venues including City Winery, Ryles Jazz Club, Rockwood Music Hall, Silvana in Harlem, Radio City Valencia in Spain, and the Maplewoodstock Festival, and opening for renowned R&B artists Vivian Green and Jon B. at the South Orange Performing Arts Center in New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, Through her vocal excellence, creative integrity, and expanding global presence, Autumn Jones exemplifies the artistic brilliance, cultural authenticity, and fearless expression embodied by the Nina Simone Artistic Excellence Award; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Autumn Jones upon her designation as recipient of the Nina Simone Artistic Excellence Award in Jazz, R&B & Soul Music Entertainment by Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, Inc., and to commend her outstanding contributions to music, storytelling, and Black artistic legacy; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Autumn Jones as an expression of the highest respect and appreciation of this Legislative Body.