

BY: Senator PARKER

MOURNING the untimely death of Prince Markie Dee,
American rap legend, songwriter, producer, actor,
and radio personality

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those musical geniuses whose commitment and creative talents have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of their community and the entire State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Prince Markie Dee, noting the significance of his inspired life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Prince Markie Dee, a founding member of the pioneering hip-hop trio the Fat Boys, died on Thursday, February 18, 2021, at the age of 52; and

WHEREAS, Born Mark Anthony Morales on February 19, 1968, in Brooklyn, New York, he teamed up with Darren Robinson (the Human Beatbox) and Damon Wimbley (Kool Rock Ski) and performed under the name The Disco 3 before later becoming the Fat Boys; and

WHEREAS, The group launched their career in 1983, when they won a talent contest at Radio City Music Hall; by the end of the decade, the group had become one of rap's premier pop culture ambassadors with the simultaneous release of their platinum-selling fourth album "Crushin'" and their breakout comedy film "Disorderlies" in the summer of 1987; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary trio popularized beatboxing and their goofy sense of humor and affable demeanors made them essential to bringing rap music to the mainstream; and

WHEREAS, Their first two albums, 1984's self-titled debut and 1985's "The Fat Boys Are Back," were produced by rap legend Kurtis Blow and included hits, such as "Can You Feel It?," "Jail House Rap," and "The Fat Boys Are Back"; and

WHEREAS, It was their "Crushin'" cover of "Wipeout" with the Beach Boys that gave them their biggest hit, reaching Number 12 on the Billboard Hot 100; their cover version of "The Twist" with Chubby Checker from "Coming Back Hard Again" hit Number 16 on the Hot 100 chart; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his renowned career as a member of the Fat Boys, Prince Markie Dee was the vice-president of Uncle Louie Music Group; and

WHEREAS, Following the Fat Boys' breakup, Prince Markie Dee launched a solo career and wrote and produced songs for Mariah Carey, Jennifer Lopez and Mary J. Blige, with the latter recording Morales' "Real Love"

to become her first Top Ten hit; furthermore, his 1992 album "Free" garnered a Number One hit with "Typical Reasons (Swing My Way)"; and

WHEREAS, Prince Markie Dee moved into radio later in his career, serving as a drive-time host WMIB in Miami, and had his own show, "The Prince Markie Dee Show" on SiriusXM's Rock the Bells station; and

WHEREAS, Prince Markie Dee was nothing less than a giant; 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 mourn the untimely death of Prince Markie Dee, American rap legend, songwriter, producer, actor, and radio personality, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Prince Markie Dee.