Senate Resolution No. 2413

BY: Senator RAMOS

COMMEMORATING the 60th Anniversary of Fania Records

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have enriched the lives of the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Fania Records; and

WHEREAS, Fania Records is one of the most significant Latin record labels in the world, both musically and culturally; in the 1960s, this legendary label pioneered the creation and dissemination of salsa music from New York City to the rest of the globe; and

WHEREAS, Fania Records is the home for numerous music genres, including Latin big band, Afro-Cuban jazz, boogaloo, and Latin soul; countless Latin music legends, such as Johnny Pacheco, Celia Cruz, Tito Puente, Ray Barretto, and Cheo Feliciano, are included on the roster; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1964 by Dominican bandleader, Johnny Pacheco, and his attorney, Jerry Masucci, Fania Records was conceived from their mutual passion for Latin music; the unique sound of the record label was a conglomeration of tropical music, big band jazz, and American rhythm and blues, jazz, funk, and soul; a young generation of musicians was afforded the opportunity to experiment with new musical formats; and

WHEREAS, In 1968, the international supergroup, known as the Fania All-Stars, was responsible for "Fania Sound" which is the signature musical style of Fania Records; this label remains a cultural beacon, illuminating a powerful American immigrant story that is just as timely today as it was at its inception; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Masucci bought Johnny Pacheco's share of Fania Records in 1967; after his death in 1997, the assets of Fania Records were unattainable for many years; in 2005, the label was sold to V2 Records and Emusica and sold again to Concord Records in 2018; at that time, the assets included more than 1,000 album masters, 15,000 songs, and 7,000 compositions; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the past six decades, Fania Records has flourished and broadened its sound, becoming more popular with increasing support from the community; three Fania recordings, including "Live at Yankee Stadium" by the Fania All-Stars, appear in the National Recording Registry; and

WHEREAS, Throughout 2024, Craft Latino, one of the largest

collections of Latin music master recordings and compositions, will commemorate the roster of artists and the history of Fania Records through numerous events; and

WHEREAS, The success of Fania Records is in direct correlation to the efforts of its members, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the community; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Fania Records, and to honor its members, past and present, who have labored so conscientiously to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Fania Records.