

Senate Resolution No. 1464

BY: Senator PARKER

HONORING Dr. Mark Matunga upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Strategic Innovation Award in Business Development & Technology by Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend individuals whose visionary leadership, technological innovation, and entrepreneurial excellence are shaping the future of industry, education, and economic development across global communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, this Legislative Body is proud to honor Dr. Mark Matunga, technology executive, artificial intelligence innovator, and global development leader, upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Strategic Innovation Award in Business Development & Technology by Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, Inc., on Wednesday, February 25, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 2006 by Carl Gray, 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 leadership, resilience, and service have made a lasting impact across business, technology, innovation, and community development; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mark Matunga is the President and Co-founder of SIMBA AI, a leading artificial intelligence company incorporated in New York and Nairobi, recognized for advancing Large Language Model (LLM) technologies and expanding access to cutting-edge AI solutions across global markets; and

WHEREAS, Through his leadership at SIMBA AI, Dr. Mark Matunga has played a pivotal role in driving innovation in artificial intelligence while advocating for the responsible and ethical use of emerging technologies to address complex societal challenges and create inclusive economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his entrepreneurial leadership, Dr. Mark Matunga currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Africa Center for Advanced Technology (ACAT) and Executive Chairman of the Cyber Security Institute (CSI), advancing digital transformation, cybersecurity resilience, and technology-driven development across Africa and beyond; and

WHEREAS, A respected technology evangelist and international consultant, he is also a Director and Co-founder of ACAT, founder of Mark Matunga International (MMI), and an active participant in national and regional ICT strategy and policy-making initiatives that place technology at the center of education, governance, and sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mark Matunga's distinguished corporate career includes five years at Intel Corporation as Director of Corporate Affairs for the East Africa region and ten years at Microsoft Corporation, where he held senior leadership roles across East and Southern Africa, contributing to regional growth, innovation, and digital capacity building; and

WHEREAS, Earlier in his career, following his return to the United States, Dr. Mark Matunga served as a technology instructor and support specialist at The School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont, reflecting his lifelong commitment to education and skills development; and

WHEREAS, His exemplary contributions to education and information and communications technology have earned him numerous honors, including the 2012 Regional Industry Sales Group Award from Microsoft Corporation (Europe, Middle East & Africa) and a Global Performance Award from Intel Corporation in 2018, among other international recognitions; and

WHEREAS, A scholar and lifelong learner, Dr. Mark Matunga is a graduate of Carroll University in Wisconsin, holds a master's degree from the School for International Training in Vermont, and earned a Doctorate in Management and Leadership from United Graduate College, reflecting the academic foundation underpinning his global leadership; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mark Matunga has demonstrated sustained commitment to public service and community development through his service on numerous boards and task forces, including the Obama Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) East Africa, the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development, the Kenya National Examination Council, and as Chair of the Nairobi City County Taskforce on Education Transformation; and

WHEREAS, He currently serves as Chairman of the Cyber Security and Emerging Technologies Taskforce at the Ministry of Internal Security and National Administration, Office of the President of the Republic of Kenya, and as Chair of the Advisory Board of Lish AI Labs, among other influential global roles advancing digital resilience and innovation; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his lasting impact on education and community development, a public secondary institution has been named Mark Matunga High School, underscoring the transformative reach of his leadership and service; and

WHEREAS, Through visionary entrepreneurship, technological leadership, and a steadfast commitment to inclusive innovation, Dr. Mark Matunga continues to expand opportunity, empower communities, and shape the future of the global technology landscape; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Mark Matunga upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Strategic Innovation Award in Business Development & Technology, and to commend his extraordinary contributions to artificial

intelligence, digital transformation, education, and global technological advancement; and be it further

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