

**BY:** Senator PARKER

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION, honoring Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, Inc., upon the occasion of its presentation of the Strategic Vision Award in Business Development & Leadership to Crystal James-Goodwin

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend institutions and initiatives whose commitment to strategic leadership, creative innovation, and business excellence elevates cultural narratives, strengthens industries, and advances opportunity across media, entertainment, and enterprise; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, Inc., upon the occasion of its presentation of the Strategic Vision Award in Business Development & Leadership on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, recognizing exemplary achievement and forward-thinking leadership within the global Black community; 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 lasting contributions across business, media, culture, and community development; and

**WHEREAS,** In furtherance of this mission, Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, Inc. has designated Crystal James-Goodwin, a culture-shaping media executive and experiential producer, as the recipient of the Strategic Vision Award in Business Development & Leadership, in recognition of her transformative influence across global media, entertainment strategy, and experiential production; and

**WHEREAS,** With more than two decades of executive leadership across Nickelodeon, Paramount, and BET, Crystal James-Goodwin has operated at the intersection of storytelling, brand development, and cultural impact, contributing to the growth of global entertainment platforms and the realization of visionary concepts that resonate with diverse audiences worldwide; and

**WHEREAS,** Her distinguished career spans global television distribution, content strategy, and large-scale experiential production, including her role in expanding iconic franchises such as SpongeBob SquarePants and Rugrats to international markets and shaping programming operations for Paramount's first global television channels; and

**WHEREAS,** Crystal James-Goodwin played a pivotal role in the planning and execution of global rollout and air strategies for major cultural institutions, including the BET Awards and Soul Train Awards,

reinforcing their sustained relevance, influence, and reach within the global cultural landscape; and

**WHEREAS,** Demonstrating rare foresight and strategic innovation, she was selected to pilot Viacom's first direct-to-consumer global streaming service, BET Play, helping to lay foundational groundwork for digital distribution and streaming models that would later become industry standards; and

**WHEREAS,** Raised within the music business and immersed from an early age in creative and executive environments through her experiences in New York radio, Crystal James-Goodwin developed a nuanced understanding of how culture, commerce, and storytelling intersect to shape industries and influence audiences; and

**WHEREAS,** She currently serves as Supervising Producer of Events & Experiences for The Hip Hop Museum, where she designs and delivers culturally significant platforms that bridge historical legacy, contemporary expression, and community engagement; and

**WHEREAS,** Most notably, Crystal James-Goodwin served as lead producer for The Hip Hop Museum's landmark 2025 Gala at Cipriani Wall Street, a major cultural and fundraising event convening more than 700 leaders, artists, executives, and community stakeholders to celebrate hip-hop's enduring legacy and future promise; and

**WHEREAS,** Through her company, Crystal Connections Media and Productions, she has earned widespread recognition for her ability to translate vision into execution, strategy into experience, and culture into sustainable business impact across media, live events, and executive spaces; and

**WHEREAS,** The Strategic Vision Award in Business Development & Leadership, bestowed by Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, Inc., fittingly reflects the organization's mission to honor leaders whose insight, innovation, and integrity continue to shape industries and elevate cultural excellence; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, Inc. for its continued commitment to recognizing visionary leadership and excellence, and for presenting the Strategic Vision Award in Business Development & Leadership to Crystal James-Goodwin; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards, Inc. and to Crystal James-Goodwin, as a lasting expression of the highest respect and appreciation of this Legislative Body.