

Senate Resolution No. 1623

**BY:** Senator PARKER

**HONORING** Dr. Lloyd A. Williams on his posthumous recognition by The Positive Community at the 7th Annual Great American Emancipation Day Awards February 28, 2026

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commemorate individuals whose lives of service, vision, and leadership have left an indelible mark on their communities, advancing culture, opportunity, and justice; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Lloyd A. Williams posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Legacy Tribute by The Positive Community at its 7th Annual Great American Emancipation Day Awards Celebration on Saturday, February 28, 2026; and

**WHEREAS,** A lifelong New Yorker and devoted Harlem resident, Dr. Lloyd Williams was born into a family deeply rooted in the historic fabric of Harlem, where he cultivated a lifetime of service, advocacy, and cultural leadership; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Williams served as President and CEO of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, a position through which he tirelessly advanced economic, cultural, and social development in Harlem, ensuring that the voices, achievements, and heritage of the community were celebrated and preserved; and

**WHEREAS,** As co-founder of Harlem Week, Dr. Williams transformed a single-day celebration in 1974 into a multi-week annual festival that highlights arts, culture, music, history, and community pride, attracting visitors from across New York and beyond and creating enduring opportunities for local artists, businesses, and youth; and

**WHEREAS,** Beyond his administrative and civic achievements, Dr. Williams was a cultural historian and chronicler, authoring volumes such as Forever Harlem, and mentoring generations of leaders in the preservation of Harlem's legacy and the promotion of civic engagement; and

**WHEREAS,** Known for his deep wisdom, integrity, and personal warmth, Dr. Williams nurtured relationships with local, national, and global leaders, including serving as the godson of Malcolm X, and consistently leveraged his influence to foster education, empowerment, and opportunity for Harlem residents; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout his life, Dr. Williams' visionary leadership, unwavering commitment to community uplift, and passion for Harlem's cultural and economic development left an enduring legacy that will continue to inspire generations; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Lloyd A. Williams posthumously, and to commend his lifelong dedication to Harlem, his transformative leadership with the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce and Harlem Week, and his enduring contributions to the cultural, social, and economic vitality of New York City; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dr. Lloyd A. Williams as a lasting tribute to his remarkable life, extraordinary legacy, and the profound impact he made on Harlem and beyond.