Senate Resolution No. 2131

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING Sesame Flyers International upon the occasion of its 2026 Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase on June 20, 2026

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor events that celebrate the rich cultural heritage, artistic excellence, entrepreneurial achievement, and civic leadership of the Caribbean diaspora, whose contributions continue to strengthen the social, cultural, and economic fabric 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 proud to commemorate the Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase, an annual event presented by Sesame Flyers International, to be held on June 20, 2026, recognizing its role in uplifting Caribbean culture, community leadership, and intergenerational achievement; and

WHEREAS, Sesame Flyers International, a Brooklyn-based cultural and community organization, has long been a cornerstone institution in Caribbean arts and cultural preservation, advancing Carnival traditions, youth mentorship, and community engagement throughout New York City; and

WHEREAS, The Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase serves as a distinguished platform honoring individuals whose work spans faith-based leadership, cultural preservation, public service, entrepreneurship, arts, corporate leadership, and community advocacy across New York City and beyond; and

WHEREAS, This year's honorees include Bishop Christopher Finch, Founder and Senior Pastor of Hope For All Outreach Christian Center; Briant Joseph of Sesame Flyers International; Bryan Hanley, a Brooklyn-based entrepreneur; Calvin Sennon, owner of TriniJam; Charles Guy, President of the United Steelband Association; Hilton Samuel, international recording artiste; Joan Alexander-Bakiriddin, President of the NAACP Brooklyn Branch; Kenneth Antoine, carnival costume designer; Robert Gordon, owner of Footprints CafÚ; Terry Yarde, Corporate Affairs Manager at National Grid; and Zaynah Ahmed, producer at Wieden+Kennedy New York, each recognized for outstanding contributions to community leadership, culture, and public service; and

WHEREAS, Collectively, these honorees represent the breadth and excellence of Caribbean heritage and leadership, demonstrating extraordinary commitment to community advancement, cultural expression, mentorship, public service, and economic empowerment; and

WHEREAS, Through their professional achievements and community engagement, these individuals have helped to preserve cultural traditions, expand opportunity, and inspire future generations of New Yorkers and members of the Caribbean diaspora; and

WHEREAS, The Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase stands as a vital celebration of identity, excellence, and unity, honoring the legacy and ongoing contributions of Caribbean Americans whose impact continues to shape communities throughout the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize the significance of the Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase and to commend its honorees for their dedication, leadership, and service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Caribbean Essence Awards and Showcase and to extend its sincere appreciation to Sesame Flyers International, the honorees, organizers, and supporters for their continued contributions to cultural preservation, community leadership, and public service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sesame Flyers International in recognition of its enduring cultural leadership and its commitment to advancing Caribbean heritage in New York State.