Senate Resolution No. 269

BY: Senator PARKER

RECOGNIZING and celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to honor those enduring organizations which devote their purposeful energies to improving the quality and dignity of life of those they serve, to preserving their heritage, and to fostering pride among them; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards Inc., and to pay tribute to this year's distinguished honorees, on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at Terrace on the Park, Queens, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Young, Gifted, & Black (YGB) Entrepreneurial Awards were established in 2006 by Carl Gray as a platform to spotlight and celebrate everyday individuals who serve as positive role models, inspiring their peers through their accomplishments, perseverance, and contributions; and

WHEREAS, The YGB Entrepreneurial Awards originated as a marketing initiative to support the Blue Mahoe Restaurant in New York City, growing into an enduring program that has honored over 300 entrepreneurial recipients while fostering inspiration and motivation for countless others; and

WHEREAS, The YGB Entrepreneurial Awards have expanded their mission to include tributes during Black History Month to luminaries such as Robert Nesta Marley, Coretta Scott King, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and everyday individuals whose entrepreneurial efforts make a significant impact on their communities; and

WHEREAS, Carl Gray's vision for the YGB Entrepreneurial Awards has remained steadfast in ensuring recognition is given to those whose contributions, though not always highlighted in mainstream media, have a profound and lasting influence within their fields and society; and

WHEREAS, The year 2025 marks the 20th Anniversary Celebration of this extraordinary program, which continues to honor excellence and innovation across diverse industries; and

WHEREAS, The YGB Entrepreneurial Awards 2025 Gala will celebrate distinguished honorees whose achievements exemplify the ideals of dedication, leadership, and service; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those organizations that give positive definition to the profile and disposition of the communities of the State of New York, do so

profoundly strengthen our shared commitment to the exercise of freedom; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Young, Gifted, & Black Entrepreneurial Awards Inc., and to pay tribute to this year's distinguished honorees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Carl Gray, President and CEO of The NetLinkz Group, Inc.