

2023-J1718

Senate Resolution No. 1718

BY: Senator BAILEY

WELCOMING Richard Martin Lloyd Walters, also known as "Slick Rick," upon the occasion of his first visit to the New York State Capitol on January 23, 2024, and recognizing his 40 years of community service and contributions to hip hop music and culture

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those musical geniuses whose commitment and creative talents have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of their community, the State of New York, the Nation, and the world; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to welcome Richard Martin Lloyd Walters, also known as "Slick Rick," upon the occasion of his first visit to the New York State Capitol on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, and to recognize his 40 years of community service and contributions to hip hop music and culture; and

WHEREAS, From humble beginnings to global recognition, Slick Rick was born Richard Martin Lloyd Walters in South Wimbledon, London on January 14, 1965; he migrated to the Bronx, New York, with his family as a child where he encountered Hip Hop culture first-hand and soon found his voice in Rap; and

WHEREAS, Richard Walters attended the La Guardia High School of Music and Art, where he became friends with future rapper Dana Dane; the two formed the Kangol Crew, and began performing in hip-hop battles around the city; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1980s, Rick's talent caught the attention of Doug E. Fresh, and soon, he was featured in Doug E.'s "The Show" and "La Di Da Di," two tracks that would signal the advent of the "Slick Rick" persona; his cadence and flamboyant style set him apart, and his knack for weaving intricate narratives laid the foundation for Rick becoming the storyteller we know and respect today; and

WHEREAS, His debut album, "The Great Adventures of Slick Rick," truly cemented his place in Hip Hop; from the hilarious exploits in "Children's Story," to the poignant social commentary in "Hey Young World," each song was an intricate narrative; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, Slick Rick was among artists bringing light-hearted fun to the Rap scene; his signature eye patch set him apart, and his vivid storytelling brought characters to life, using music as a canvas to depict real-life issues; he was no ordinary rapper; he was a raconteur; each album became a new chapter, a fresh saga in the ever-evolving story of Slick Rick; and

WHEREAS, The impact of Slick Rick is far-reaching; his narrative-centric style revolutionized Hip Hop, influencing countless artists; names like Snoop Dogg, Biggie Smalls, and Eminem openly attribute their storytelling abilities to Rick's influence; his peers'

response was overwhelmingly positive, affirming his status in the industry, and his rhymes were not just entertaining, they were groundbreaking; he pushed the boundaries of what Rap could be, changing

the landscape forever; and

WHEREAS, Slick Rick's success wasn't confined to acclaim from his peers; he enjoyed remarkable commercial success with "The Great Adventures of Slick Rick" going platinum; his subsequent albums, "The Ruler's Back," "Behind Bars," and "The Art of Storytelling," also found chart success, a testament to his enduring appeal; and

WHEREAS, Today, Slick Rick's music continues to be sampled extensively, his stories told and retold by generations of rappers; his legacy is a beacon guiding hip hop's next generation; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his monumental success as an artist, Slick Rick continues to give back to the greater global community with his organization, the Victory Patch Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Cofounded in 2020 alongside his wife, Mandy Aragones, the Victory Patch Foundation uplifts underserved and overlooked communities through making active positive outreach, administering social programs, and unlocking access to resources; and

WHEREAS, Pushing for equality in the face of injustice, this vital non-profit organization enables those who need it most, amplifying the voices of individuals of all ages often overlooked; under the able leadership of Slick Rick, the Victory Patch Foundation leads with love, not just encouraging victory, but placing victory within reach; and

WHEREAS, A man of colossal talent, Slick Rick's dedication to both his music and his community should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

welcome Richard Martin Lloyd Walters, also known as "Slick Rick," upon the occasion of his first visit to the New York State Capitol on January 23, 2024, and recognizing his 40 years of community service and contributions to hip hop music and culture; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Richard Martin Lloyd Walters, also known as "Slick Rick".