

## 2015-J2692

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Jamel Shabazz for his eminent work as an Artist, Author and Photographer

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Jamel Shabazz for his eminent work as an Artist, Author and Photographer; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Jamel Shabazz picked up his first camera at 15 years old and started to document his peers; inspired by photographers Leonard Freed, James Van Der Zee, and Gordon Parks, he was marveled with their documentation of the African American community; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, as a concerned photographer with a clear vision, Jamel Shabazz embarked on a mission to extensively document various aspects of life in New York City, from youth culture to a wide range of social conditions; and

WHEREAS, With a goal to contribute to the preservation of world history and culture, Jamel Shabazz has had over two dozen solo exhibitions in the past 10 years which have been shown worldwide from Argentina to The Netherlands, England, Italy, Germany, France, Japan and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Jamel Shabazz has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given

of himself unstintingly; over the years he has volunteered with countless organizations centered on inspiring young people in the field of photography and social responsibility; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man has been a teaching artist with the Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation, the Bronx Museum's Teen Council youth program, the International Center of Photography, Friends of the Island Academy, and the Studio Museum in Harlem's Expanding the Walls Project; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Jamel Shabazz has authored several books and has lectured at the Fashion Institute of Technology, the International Center for Photography, the Brooklyn Historic Foundation, Haverford College and Parsons New School of Design; and

WHEREAS; Dedicated to mentoring youth, both in the field of photography and career planning, Jamel Shabazz is a steadfast volunteer with the Rush Arts Philanthropic Foundation, an organization which is geared toward exposing inner city youth to the arts; and

WHEREAS, Jamel Shabazz has worked with the Studio Museum in Harlem's Expanding the Walls Project, a workshop focused on teaching youth the connection between photography, history, and community; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he has recently worked with the organization, Plays For A Living, a community based organization dedicated to the well-being of young people; the theme of this project was "Compassion" and he used his photographs to inspire and educate; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Jamel Shabazz has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Jamel Shabazz has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Jamel Shabazz for his eminent work as an Artist, Author and Photographer; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jamel Shabazz.