

## 2017-J4384

Senate Resolution No. 4384

BY: Senator PARKER

HONORING B. Elias Shoniyin upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by FACE Africa at its Ninth Annual Wash Gala on March 31, 2018

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to call attention to those events which serve to enhance the cultural enrichment and preserve the heritage of Africa; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor B. Elias Shoniyin upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by FACE Africa at its Ninth Annual Wash Gala "A Night Celebrating African Excellence" to be held at The Current at Chelsea Piers, New York, New York, on Saturday, March 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, The FACE Africa WASH Gala is held annually in New York City to raise awareness and funds for clean water projects; in addition, it is a celebration of Africans and Friends of Africa making a difference in their respective industries and communities; and

WHEREAS, This year, FACE Africa's goal is to raise \$500,000 to provide Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programs and facilities to communities in rural Liberia and Nigeria; and

WHEREAS, The theme for this year's gala "Water Fuels the Future" is more than a statement, it is the recognition that the availability of clean drinking water is a prerequisite to achieving all of the other development indicators like health, education, gender equality, growth, community commerce, agriculture, and self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, B. Elias Shoniyin earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Sociology and a minor in Demography from the University of Liberia; and

WHEREAS, Satisfying his aspiration for a successful future and his desire to positively contribute to the development of Liberia, B. Elias Shoniyin entered the Gabriel L. Dennis Foreign Service Institute at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was awarded an Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations and Contemporary Diplomacy; and

WHEREAS, After an uninterrupted period of public service, B. Elias Shoniyin travelled to Australia and enrolled at the Crawford School of Economics and Government, Australian National University and was awarded a postgraduate diploma in Public Administration, with emphasis on Public Sector Management; he later re-enrolled at the same university and was awarded a Master's of Public Policy degree, specializing in Development Policy; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, B. Elias Shoniyin has also served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Economic Cooperation and Integration and as Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Cooperation and Economic Affairs; he worked as a

Master Trainer with World Vision Liberia, and as a Mentor and Social Mobilization Officer with Habitat for Humanity; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this esteemed man was contracted by the Ministry of Health on a UNICEF program as Team Leader, and served as Administrative Officer for POINTED, a local nonprofit organization; and

WHEREAS, B. Elias Shoniyin is a former member of the board of directors of the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Liberia National Small Arms Commission; he also served as a member of the Government of Liberia delegation to the United Nations General Assembly where he participated as an Adviser of the Second, Third and Forth Committees; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they 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 honor B. Elias Shoniyin upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by FACE Africa at its Ninth Annual Wash Gala on March 31, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to B. Elias Shoniyin.