

## 2023-J520

Senate Resolution No. 520

BY: Senator PARKER

HONORING Troy "TJ" Jackson Sonesta upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Abu Bekr Temple No. 91, Oasis of Brooklyn, Desert of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Troy "TJ" Jackson Sonesta upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Abu Bekr Temple No. 91, Oasis of Brooklyn, Desert of New York, at its Annual Potentates Ball, March 31-April 2, 2023, at Sonesta White Plains Downtown, White Plains, New York; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Staten Island, New York, Troy Jackson Sonesta was born on June 19, 1966, and graduated from Susan E. Wagner High School in 1984; he went on to work as an Assistant to the Communications Director at the Charter Revision Commission from 1987 to 1990; and

WHEREAS, Troy Jackson Sonesta began his illustrious 33-year career

with Richmond University Medical Center as a certified New York State Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in 1990, and one year later, became an EMT Certified Lab Instructor (CLI), teaching First Aid and CPR; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, from 2007 to 2010, he worked as the Director of Operations at Essex Valley EMS out of East Orange Hospital, covering the cities of East Orange and Orange, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, Troy Jackson Sonesta graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Security Management; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Troy Jackson Sonesta became a Master Mason in 2005 with Silver Lake Lodge No. 59 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge for the State of New York; he served as its Worshipful Master from 2015 to 2016, and became District Deputy Grand Master of the 2nd District, covering 3 lodges in Brooklyn and Staten Island, in 2017; he became a Grand Trustee for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge for the State of New York in 2022; and

WHEREAS, A Noble in Abu Bekr Temple No. 91 since October of 2016, Troy Jackson Sonesta currently serves as its 72nd Illustrious Potentate, the esteemed position he has held since his election in December of 2022; and

WHEREAS, Troy Jackson Sonesta has also served as a semi-professional football coach with the New York Predators for 15 years, and most

recently, as the defensive and special teams' coach for the New Jersey Unit; in addition, he referees local youth football games ranging from Pre-K to high school level; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals and organizations 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 Troy "TJ" Jackson Sonesta upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Abu Bekr Temple No. 91, Oasis of Brooklyn, Desert of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Troy "TJ" Jackson Sonesta.