

2009-K65

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring 2008 Jamaican Olympic Gold medalist Veronica Campbell-Brown upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those esteemed individuals who distinguish themselves through outstanding achievements in worldwide athletic competition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor 2008 Jamaican Olympic Gold medalist Veronica Campbell-Brown upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition; and

WHEREAS, The Jamaican Consulate is hosting a reception for Veronica Campbell-Brown on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, at the New York City College of Technology in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born May 15, 1982, Veronica Campbell-Brown is an international track and field sprint athlete, competing for Jamaica; a five-time Olympic medalist, she is the reigning Olympic 200m and World 100m champion; at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, she ran the 200 meters in 21.74 seconds, the seventh fastest time ever, and became the second woman in history to win the Olympic 200 meters twice and successfully defend her title, after Barbel Wockel of Germany did so at the 1976 and 1980 Olympics; and

WHEREAS, During her junior career in 1999, Veronica Campbell-Brown won two gold medals, the 100m and 4x100m at the inaugural IAAF World Youth Championships, and the following year, she became the first female to win the sprint double at the IAAF World Junior Championships; she won the 100m in 11.12 seconds, the current championship record, and the 200m in 22.87 seconds; at the 2000 Olympic Games, she ran the second leg on the silver medal 4x100m relay team; and

WHEREAS, Veronica Campbell-Brown is the only female athlete to win

both the 100m and 200m sprints at the same World Youth Championship event; and

WHEREAS, While in college, Veronica Campbell-Brown attended Barton County Community College in Great Bend, Kansas, where she set several records and won many titles including four national junior college titles in the 60, 100 and 200 meter dashes both indoors and outdoors; she also set the current record for Barton County in the outdoor 100 and 200 meter dashes; and

WHEREAS, Veronica Campbell-Brown also excelled in academics, earning an Associates degree from Barton County in 2002 with a 3.8 grade average; she later went on to attend the University of Arkansas, where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree and stood out as a sprint star in a program dominated by long-distance runners; and

WHEREAS, At the 2004 Olympics, Veronica Campbell-Brown placed third in the 100 meters and two days later won the 200 meters, beating out Allyson Felix of the United States; she later teamed up with Aleen Bailey, Tanya Lawrence, and Sherone Simpson to win the 4x100meter relay race; and

WHEREAS, In August of 2005, Veronica Campbell-Brown won the silver medal in the 100 meters at the 2005 World Championships in Athletics as well as another silver medal in the 4x100meter relay together with Daniele Browning, Aleen Bailey and Sherone Simpson; and

WHEREAS, At the 2007 World Championships, Veronica Campbell-Brown won three medals with a gold in the 100 meters, a silver in the 200 meters and a silver in the 4x100meter relay; and

WHEREAS, At the 2008 Jamaican Olympic trials, Veronica Campbell-Brown finished 4th in the 100m, thereby missing the qualifying requirement to automatically make the Jamaican Olympic roster for that event; she

clocked 10.88 seconds in the final, which is the second fastest time ever for a 4th place finish; she however bounced back to take the 200m final in a personal best of 21.94 seconds; and

WHEREAS, On July 3, 2008, it was announced that Veronica Campbell-Brown was denied a spot in the 100 meters in Beijing, even though she is the reigning World Champion; therefore, she only competed in the 200m and the 4x100 relay at the Olympic Games; at the opening ceremony of the 2008 Olympics, Veronica Campbell-Brown carried the Jamaican flag during the Athletes' Parade; she successfully defended her Olympic 200m title in a new personal best time of 21.74 seconds, a time which puts her seventh on the all-time world list; and

WHEREAS, At the end of the 2008 season, Veronica Campbell-Brown was selected by TRACK AND FIELD NEWS as the top 200-meter runner in the world as well as the fourth best in the 100-meters following three other fellow Jamaicans; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, Omar, and her parents, Cecil and Pamella, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, A gifted athlete, Veronica Campbell-Brown has become a role model in society as well as the sport of track and field; her character and achievements stand as a sterling example and inspiration to all who would aspire to success; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor 2008 Jamaican Olympic Gold medalist Veronica Campbell-Brown upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to 2008 Jamaican Olympic Gold medalist Veronica Campbell-Brown.