

2009-J6575

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Lincoln Barrington Minott, pioneer of dancehall reggae

WHEREAS, Jamaican reggae singer Lincoln Barrington "Sugar" Minott, who died on July 10, 2010, unexpectedly at age 54, had a prolific solo career from the 1970s onwards; he scored his biggest hit with "Good Thing Going", a cover version of a recording by Michael Jackson; and WHEREAS, Sugar Minott's single reached No. 4 in the United Kingdom in 1981 and prompted a well-received follow-up album of the same name; he worked with many of Jamaica's leading producers, including Coxsone Dodd, Mikey Dread and Sly & Robbie, and also nurtured younger artists through his Black Roots label and his company Youthman Promotion; and WHEREAS, Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Sugar Minott began working with local groups of disc jockeys and MCs before he reached his teens; he cited as his musical inspirations Ken Boothe, Delroy Wilson and Dennis Brown; and WHEREAS, After a stint as a selector with the Sound of Silence Keytone outfit, Sugar Minott teamed up with Derrick Howard and Tony Tuff to form the African Brothers, which gave him his first experience as a singer; the trio recorded for the Micron label as well as for their own Ital imprint, working with producers including Keith Weston, Winston "Merri-tone" Blake and Rupie Edwards; and WHEREAS, In 1974, the African Brothers cut "No Cup No Broke" for Dodd's renowned Studio One, the pioneering black-owned music studio in the Caribbean; when the group split up shortly afterwards, Sugar Minott stayed on with Dodd and worked as a singer and guitarist at Studio One; he began recording his own singles, and later completed his first solo album, "Live Loving", in 1978; and WHEREAS, It was during this period that Sugar Minott earned a reputation as a pioneer of reggae's dancehall style, in which he would lay new vocal tracks over the original 1960s backing tapes instead of using a live band; other artists had done this in live performance, but he brought the technique into the recording studio, triggering a revolution in Jamaican music; and

WHEREAS, After making a second album, "Showcase", Sugar Minott left Studio One in 1979 and formed his own label, Black Roots; the 1979 album, "Black Roots", generated two of Sugar Minott's biggest hits, "Hard Time Pressure" and "River Jordan"; and
WHEREAS, "Hard Time Pressure" was a big success in the United Kingdom reggae charts, which prompted him to relocate to Britain for a time; in 1980, his "Roots Lovers" album found him leaning towards the more romantic, soulful sound of lovers' rock; and
WHEREAS, Sugar Minott returned to Jamaica to supervise his Youth Promotion operation, celebrating his return with a scintillating performance at 1983's Reggae Sunsplash festival; the dancehall music he had helped to create was going strong, and he released the Dancehall Showcase album; and
WHEREAS, In 1986, Sugar Minott released "Sugar & Spice", a collaboration with Sly & Robbie; in 1987, he teamed up with Gregory Isaacs for the Double Dose collection; by the end of the 1980s, Black Roots had dissolved and Sugar Minott's influence was beginning to fade; nonetheless, he continued to deliver galvanizing live performances, and his 1991 album "Happy Together" was a dramatic mix of musical styles; and
WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, including his wife, Maxine, Sugar Minott leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the

passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Lincoln Barrington Minott, pioneer of dancehall reggae; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Lincoln Barrington Minott.