

2011-J3270

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of famed singer and actress Whitney Houston

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to the lives of those esteemed individuals of national renown who distinguished themselves through their life's work; and

WHEREAS, Born in Newark, New Jersey, Whitney Houston died on Saturday, February 11, 2012, at the age of 48; and

WHEREAS, Whitney Houston's death was on the eve of the Grammy Awards which sent shock waves through the music industry, with many stars expressing surprise and sadness; and

WHEREAS, Overcoming many obstacles in her life, Whitney Houston shall be forever remembered for her remarkable contribution to music fans in general, and, in particular, her close ties with the Grammy telecast and her Grammy wins and nominations over the years; and

WHEREAS, Whitney Houston first started singing in the church as a child; in her teens, she sang backup for Chaka Khan, Jermaine Jackson and others, in addition to modeling; it was around that time when music mogul Clive Davis first heard her perform; and

WHEREAS, Whitney Houston made her album debut in 1985 with "Whitney Houston", which sold millions and spawned hit after hit; "Saving All My Love for You" brought her her first Grammy, for best female pop vocal and "How Will I Know", "You Give Good Love", and "The Greatest Love of All" also became hit singles; and

WHEREAS, At her peak, Whitney Houston was the golden girl of the music industry; from the mid 1980s to the late 1990s, she was one of the world's best-selling artists; she wowed audiences with effortless, powerful, and peerless vocals that were rooted in the black church, but made palatable to the masses with a pop sheen; and

WHEREAS, Whitney Houston's success carried her beyond music to movies, where she starred in hits like "The Bodyguard" and "Waiting to Exhale"; she had the perfect voice, and the perfect image of a gorgeous singer who maintained perfect poise; and

WHEREAS, Six-time Grammy winner Whitney Houston was one of the world's

greatest pop singers of all time who leaves behind a robust musical soundtrack spanning the past three decades; she surpassed the Beatles and the Bee Gees to become the first recording star to have seven consecutive No. 1 hits; and

WHEREAS, A musical legend, Whitney Houston possessed one of her generation's most powerful gospel-trained voices, but eschewed many of the churchier mannerisms of her forerunners; she used ornamental gospel phrasing sparingly, and communicated cool self-assurance and strength, building pop ballads to majestic, sustained peaks of intensity; her long contributions of entertaining society will indefinitely withstand the test of time; and

WHEREAS, Whitney Houston is survived by her daughter, Bobbi Kristina, mother, Cissy, cousin Dionne Warwick, godmother, Aretha Franklin as well as numerous other family members; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Whitney Houston leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of famed singer and actress Whitney Houston; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Whitney Houston.