

2011-J4367

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Horace Bennie Samuels II as he is honored by the Imani Singers of Medgar Evers College at its Annual Night of Honor on May 4, 2012

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that individuals who distinguish themselves in service to their faith and community merit the highest commendation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Horace Bennie Samuels II as he is honored by the Imani Singers of Medgar Evers College, the college's renowned resident choir, at its Annual Night of Honor to be held at the college on Friday, May 4, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Each year at this Black Tie event, the Imani Singers of Medgar Evers College honors and pays tribute to outstanding sacred music church musicians in the Brooklyn community; and

WHEREAS, Horace Bennie Samuels II, affectionately known as HB, Minister of Music at St. Paul Community Baptist Church, truly merits this high honor; and

WHEREAS, HB Samuels II, a native New Yorker, is a Music Teacher at the Westbury High School in Old Westbury, New York, and the Director of Sacred Music of the Saint Paul Community Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York; he is also the former Choral Director at C. Leon King Senior High School in Tampa, Florida, where his presence prompted the vocal music department's enrollment to increase from forty-five to over one hundred and ten students; and

WHEREAS, HB Samuels is a well-trained and accomplished keyboardist, choral conductor and music educator; he has studied at some of the world's finest musical institutions including the renowned Juilliard School of Music, the Aaron Copeland School of Music, York College, and Five Towns College in Dix Hills, New York, where he earned a bachelor's and a master's degree; on the Dean's list, he was the first person at the college to earn a bachelor's degree in Music Education and, he is currently working toward a doctorate in ministry with a concentration in sacred music at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, From 1982-1999, HB Samuels II was employed by the New York City Board of Education; during his twelve years at the Springfield Gardens High School he served in many capacities; under his creative tutelage, the SGHS Gospel Ensemble earned first place twice, second place twice and third place twice in the National Music Caucus' Gospel Choir Competition; also while at SGHS, he was the Musical/Vocal Director for the school's productions of The Wiz, Grease, Annie and Joseph; and WHEREAS, HB Samuels II's resume reads like the who's who of the music industry; he was the keyboardist for Grammy Award recipient Donnie McClurkin and has performed with Patti LaBelle, Jonathon Butler, the late David Piston and Phil Driscoll; he has also performed with The Duke Ellington Orchestra and The Queens Symphony Orchestra and conducted a musical featuring members of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Birmingham Youth Symphony; and WHEREAS, Married to the former Valerie Betts, HB Samuels II is the proud father of four children: James Benjamin, Tiffany Monique, Horace Benjamin, III, and Brittany Monae, and the grandfather of six year old Eryn Monae Solomon; and WHEREAS, HB Samuels II has distinguished himself in his profession and in service to his faith and community and is worthy of the recognition and appreciation of this Legislative Body and the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Horace Bennie Samuels II as he is honored by the Imani Singers of Medgar Evers College at its Annual Night of Honor on Friday, May 4, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Horace Bennie Samuels II.