

2015-J473

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Imhotep Gary Byrd upon the occasion of celebrating many years of distinguished service as host, creator and executive producer of "The GBE", the longest running black radio broadcast in the history of New York City

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality and character of life in this great Empire State is indelibly enriched by the faithful and untiring efforts of those individuals who have helped shape the history of broadcasting in their area; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Imhotep Gary Byrd upon the occasion of celebrating many years of distinguished service as host, creator and executive producer of "The GBE", the longest running black radio broadcast in the history of New York City; and

WHEREAS, Imhotep Gary Byrd's legendary career as a multi-media radio personality, spoken word-recording artist, songwriter, and motivational speaker has always focused on raising human consciousness through communications; and

WHEREAS, With a career that spans five decades, Imhotep Gary Byrd, as a modern day griot, is dedicated to telling "our story and lifting every voice"; and

WHEREAS, As a teenager in the 1960s, Imhotep Gary Byrd worked at WUFO-AM, the city's first Black-oriented radio station, and from there he became the first African American in Buffalo to broadcast on a general market mainstream station (WYSL AM/FM Radio); and

WHEREAS, In 1969, Byrd followed his mentors and went to the top Black radio station of the day, WWRL-AM in New York City; still just a teenager, he became the youngest Black radio personality to work in New York

City; and

WHEREAS, During this time, in the media capital of the world, Imhotep Gary Byrd launched "The Gary Byrd Experience" (GBE); the innovative all-night format was both revolutionary and extremely popular, catapulting him into the public spotlight and cementing his position amongst media pioneers; and

WHEREAS, Invited to Inner City Broadcasting's WLIB-AM by its Chairman Emeritus, Imhotep Gary Byrd transformed "The GBE" into "The Global Black Experience"; in addition, he broadcast live from the Apollo Theatre and became even more respected in his field, both nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, Imhotep Gary Byrd is the first radio personality since his mentor, Hal Jackson, to broadcast from three different New York City stations: WLIB-AM, WBLS-FM, and WBAI-FM; and

WHEREAS, After an illustrious career of more than 50 years, Imhotep Gary Byrd continues to serve as host and executive producer of "Express Yourself", "Express Yourself Radio Town Hall", and "GBE Mind Flight: Your Gateway to the Black Experience"; he also executive produces and hosts the "GBE 2.0: The Global Black Experience" and "The Global Beat Experience"; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Imhotep Gary Byrd is a creative consultant and a life creativity coach; he lectures regularly and is frequently called upon to serve as a Master of Ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, Imhotep Gary Byrd has received numerous awards and accolades some of which include, the prestigious Hal Jackson Award from the International Association of African American Music and the Living Legend Award from the Living Legend Foundation; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he was inducted into the National Black Sports and Entertainment Hall of Fame, and named as a Black Media Legend for McDonald's Faces of Black History 2011 Tribute; and

WHEREAS, Imhotep Gary Byrd has, throughout his career and purposeful

life, served his community with integrity and devotion, continuously striving to meet the needs of his listeners through entertainment and enlightenment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Imhotep Gary Byrd upon the occasion of celebrating many years of distinguished service as host, creator and executive producer of "The GBE", the longest running black radio broadcast in the history of New York City; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Imhotep Gary Byrd.