

## 2015-J2081

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 15-21, 2015 as Hip-Hop Against Gun & Gang Violence Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals that are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is also the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks that are set aside to increase awareness of issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 15-21, 2015 as Hip-Hop Against Gun & Gang Violence Week in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council will celebrate its fourth annual Hip-Hop Against Gang & Gun Violence Week initiative, a proactive 105-day campaign to improve public safety; and

WHEREAS, The project's mission is to teach students and young adults how to reduce gun and gang violence with a focus on the Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays, the unofficial start and end of summer when gun violence spikes; and

WHEREAS, To support the celebration, the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council will again work with the New York City Housing Authority, Department of Youth and Community Development, DOC, New York Police Department, celebrities, students, community and business leaders, clergy, gang leaders, and the formerly incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, Activities offered during Hip-Hop Against Gun & Gang Violence

Week and throughout the summer will include the Community Ambassadors 4 Peace initiative, Rap to Bridge the Gap, Time 2 Shine Talent Showcase, Solution Summits, films, gun buy-back programs, trips, celebrity public service announcements, prize give-a-ways, essay contests, and sports and entertainment events; and

WHEREAS, The campaign, created in 2012, has seen much success, including an extraordinary 70% reduction in New York City gun homicides from 2011 to 2013; and

WHEREAS, This year Hip-Hop Against Gun & Violence Week initiative will focus on improving Police/Community relations, as well as address Black on Black Crime; and

WHEREAS, In addition, 2015 marks the 150th Anniversary of the ending of Slavery and the 50th Anniversary of the March on Selma, which lead to the passing of the Voting Rights Act; in recognition of both historic events the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council looks forward to declaring June-teenth Day as an official holiday in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Founder Charles Fisher, the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council has been instrumental in improving public safety, and helping young citizens to graduate from high school, pursue college, obtain employment, fulfill their civic duty and stay out of the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the efforts of citizens of the State of New York who organize themselves for the purpose of improving and enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body recognizes the many contributions of the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council, and

wishes this worthy organization continued success in its proactive mission to benefit the communities it represents; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 15-21, 2015 as

Hip-Hop Against Gun & Gang Violence Week in the State of New York; and  
be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.