

2015-J4055

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 99th Anniversary of the Colored Musicians Club of Buffalo, New York, Inc.

WHEREAS, The arts, in whatever form depicted, are central to human expression; they are truly a universal language and their contribution to the development of friendship and understanding among all peoples cannot be underestimated; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those musical organizations that have brought entertainment and cultural enrichment to the citizens of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 99th Anniversary of the Colored Musicians Club of Buffalo, New York, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, On February 3, 1917, the Colored Musicians Association of Buffalo, Musicians Local 533, was officially established in Buffalo, New York under the auspices of the American Federation of Musicians; this was after unsuccessful attempts by African-American musicians to join Musicians Local 43, which had an official policy of segregation; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently, Buffalo became the eighth American city to have a "Colored" Musicians Union in the American Federation of Musicians (AFM); and

WHEREAS, In 1941, under the luminous direction of then President James Petrillo, the AFM did away with subsidiary locals and Colored Unions became fully autonomous; this meant that Local 533 was no longer under the jurisdiction or control of Local 43, and both organizations were chartered membership Locals within the AFM; and

WHEREAS, More than two decades later, in 1964, AFM's then President Herbert Kenin informed these separate Locals that the Federation had to

desegregate or be in violation of the Civil Rights Act, which was scheduled to take effect on July 1, 1965; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, after years of negotiations, Musicians Local 533 and Musicians Local 43, merged to become the American Federation of Musicians Local 92, which remains today; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Colored Musicians Club of Buffalo, New York, Inc. is in direct correlation to the efforts of its current President, George Scott, as well as its members, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents an opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to the Colored Musicians Club of Buffalo, New York, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when musical organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 99th Anniversary of the Colored Musicians Club of Buffalo, New York, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to George Scott, President of the Colored Musicians Club of Buffalo, New York, Inc.