

## 2019-J2868

Senate Resolution No. 2868

BY: Senator PARKER

MOURNING the untimely death of Pop Smoke, young  
New York rapper and talented vocal artist

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay  
tribute to those musical geniuses whose commitment and creative talents  
have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of their  
community and the entire State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved this day to memorialize the  
inspired life and career of Pop Smoke, who died on Wednesday, February  
19, 2020, in Los Angeles, California, at the age of 20; the rapper's  
death came just days after his new mixtape, "Meet the Woo 2", debuted in  
the Top Ten of the Rolling Stone albums chart; and

WHEREAS, Pop Smoke was born Bashar Barakah Jackson to a Jamaican  
mother and a Panamanian father in Brooklyn, New York, in 1999; his  
transformation from a relatively unknown artist to superstardom took  
place in the span of just a few months; and

WHEREAS, Pop Smoke began his music career in 2018 while spending  
time with other recording artists during their studio sessions; he  
initially began by remixing popular songs within the New York City drill  
music scene, before embarking on creating original music which  
catapulted him to fame; and

WHEREAS, In April of 2019, Pop Smoke released a song titled "Welcome to the Party", an intense beat-swallowing track which became one of hip-hop's songs of the summer and earned him a major record deal; and

WHEREAS, With an inimitable voice, Pop Smoke continued to build on the success of "Welcome to the Party," which has amassed nearly 80 million streams to date in the United States, and later earned an official remix from Nicki Minaj; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he released several singles throughout 2019, collaborating with stars like Travis Scott on the "Jackboys" EP, which debuted at Number One, while also working with other rising artists like Lil Tjay and Calboy; and

WHEREAS, The flurry of singles and collaborations culminated in "Meet the Woo 2", which Pop Smoke released in early February of 2020; fans responded enthusiastically and the mixtape arrived at Number Eight on the latest Rolling Stone albums chart, amassing 37 million streams; and

WHEREAS, A man of colossal talent, Pop Smoke combined gravelly vocals with erratic production to become the face of Brooklyn's rising drill scene; and

WHEREAS, Pop Smoke's dedication to his music leaves an indelible legacy of inspiration which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to his family, friends and countless fans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the untimely death of Pop Smoke, young New York rapper and

talented vocal artist; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Pop Smoke.