

2021-J1270

Senate Resolution No. 1270

BY: Senator PARKER

MOURNING the untimely death of Biz Markie,
legendary Hip Hop pioneer and musical icon

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, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Biz Markie, noting the significance of his inspired life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Biz Markie, a hip-hop staple known for his beatboxing prowess, turntable mastery and the 1989 classic "Just a Friend," died on July 16, 2021, at the age of 57; and

WHEREAS, Born Marcel Theo Hall on April 8, 1964, in Harlem, New York, Biz Markie went on to perform at colleges in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania, where he gained recognition for his work; and

WHEREAS, Biz Markie was a founding member of the late 1980s-early 1990s, Queens-based Juice Crew; the hip hop collective formed a loose-knit "supergroup" around the production of beat maker Marley Marl and the rap label Cold Chillin' Records; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, known for his charismatic and down to earth personality, Biz Markie was often recognized as the resident court jester of the Queensbridge-based collective; and

WHEREAS, Biz Markie released his first album, "Goin' Off," in 1988; one year later, in October of 1989, his second studio album "The Biz Never Sleeps," was released, featuring his hit track, "Just A Friend"; the song became the artist's most successful single, selling millions of copies and reaching No. 9 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart; and

WHEREAS, In addition to being a rapper, Biz Markie excelled as a human beat boxer; he used this talent to maximum effect on his records, producing memorable robot-like sound effects and turns of phrase which are instantly recognizable to fans of the genre, particularly in the decade following his first releases; and

WHEREAS, Always reliable for lighthearted amusement, Biz Markie seldom ventured into controversial or difficult subject matter; he released "I Need a Haircut" in 1991, followed by his fourth album, "All Samples Cleared!" and 2003's "Weekend Warrior"; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary rapper brought a relatable quality to his records which catapulted him to become one of hip-hop's most treasured and wholly original emcees; he also made a number of appearances, mostly cameos, on sitcom television and in lighthearted comedy films; and

WHEREAS, An amusing, endearing and ground-breaking artist, Biz Markie will be missed, not only by his relatives and friends, but multitudes of fans, collaborators, admirers and musicians who have been influenced by his various contributions and talents; and

WHEREAS, Biz Markie'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 Biz Markie, legendary Hip Hop pioneer and musical icon, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

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