



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: Smith V

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing the 14th Annual
2 Bill Johnson Black Film Festival.

3 *Whereas, African American Achievers Youth Corps, Inc.,*
4 *partners with other local groups to sponsor a film festival*
5 *dedicated to Gary native William L. Johnson, which is hosted*
6 *by the actor;*

7 *Whereas, William Johnson is a graduate of Emerson School*
8 *for the Visual and Performing Arts in Gary and has had*
9 *starring roles in many theatrically released projects, including*
10 *a lead role in "Blue Hill Avenue", which garnered top honors*
11 *at the Acapulco and Black Hollywood film festivals;*

12 *Whereas, More than just an actor, William Johnson's goal is*
13 *to "reinvest the majority of his earnings into a structured*
14 *business that supports the advancement of the urban*

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1 *community. By spreading the message of self-reliance and*
 2 *providing opportunities to qualified individuals from*
 3 *disadvantaged backgrounds, he hopes to break the cycle that*
 4 *keeps generations impoverished";*

5 *Whereas, Equally important to William Johnson is his*
 6 *passion to deliver conscious messages through his music using*
 7 *his stage persona, "Brotha Bill";*

8 *Whereas, William Johnson has been involved in more than*
 9 *20 film projects and independent short films and features,*
 10 *including "Motives 2", "The Mannsfield 12", "Crossover",*
 11 *"Doing Hard Time", "Tears of a Clown", "Motives", "Move",*
 12 *"Wanted: Soulful Energy Xchange", "Two Degrees", "Nothing*
 13 *Like Thanksgiving", "Perfectly Single", "Bernie Problems", and*
 14 *"The Black Hamptons";*

15 *Whereas, The 14th Annual Bill Johnson Black Film Festival*
 16 *will feature student films "My Silence, My Grave" by Donté*
 17 *Larry, "Here Without You" by Genesis Nelson, "The*
 18 *Conversation: Untold Truths" by Shanese Shields, "Handle It"*
 19 *by Jabril Gibbs, "No Homecoming" by Spencer Hawkins,*
 20 *"Requiem" by Alex K. Morgan, and "Signal Hill Blues: The Ron*
 21 *Settles Story" by Richard E. Haywood, all premiering on the*
 22 *morning of Friday, February 21, 2025;*

23 *Whereas, Friday evening will include "Black History Man 2"*
 24 *by Raymond P. Lambert, "The Visitor" by Chris Pastenes,*
 25 *"Rock Island Prison 1864" by Joy Shannon, "The Strauss*
 26 *Sneeze Sonata" by Marjorie Peterson, "Les Maudis - Act II -*
 27 *Henry's Bloodline" by L'Charles Degreat, and "Unfailing*
 28 *Love" by Jewell R. Powell and Dan Parsons as the feature film;*

29 *Whereas, The festival continues on Saturday, February 22,*
 30 *2025, with the evening showings of "Write This..." by*
 31 *Christopher Ortega, "Bad Day: Good Man Gone Bad" by*
 32 *Kendrick Ramon McLin, "Echoes Unheard" by J'sha Gift, "The*
 33 *Knowing" by Jonathan Rowan, "Break Free" by Demetrius*
 34 *Truss, "Crown" by La'Tia Owens, and "Secrets 2" by Larry*
 35 *Harris and Leonard Martin as the feature film;*

36 *Whereas, Finally, Sunday, February 23, 2025, will include*



1 *"My Private Line to God" by Mignon Pinson, "Box Brown: A*
2 *Box Marked Freedom" by Robert Alan Underhill and Aravind*
3 *Ragupathi, and "The Solution" by Andrew J. Bullard IV as the*
4 *feature films;*

5 *Whereas, The Bill Johnson Black Film Festival came about*
6 *as an idea to provide wholesome entertainment for Northwest*
7 *Indiana, to expose the Northwest Indiana community to quality*
8 *Black films, to help Northwest Indiana come together to share*
9 *ideas, and to hold discussions surrounding film messages; and*

10 *Whereas, The arts are a valuable tool in creating an*
11 *atmosphere of understanding and open discussions to help*
12 *bring communities together in a meaningful way: Therefore,*

13 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
14 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

15 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives
16 recognizes the value to the community of the 14th Annual Bill
17 Johnson Black Film Festival and thanks William L. Johnson for
18 dedicating his time and energy to this worthwhile project.

19 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
20 Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the
21 African American Achievers Youth Corps, Inc., and William L.
22 Johnson.

