



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: Smith V

A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing the Fifth Annual Bill Johnson Film Festival.

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

Whereas, William Johnson is a graduate of Emerson School for Visual and Performing Arts and has had starring roles in many theatrically released projects, including the lead role in "Blue Hill Avenue", which garnered top honors at the Acapulco and Black Hollywood Film Festivals;

Whereas, More than just an actor, William Johnson's goal

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is to "reinvest the majority of his earnings into a structured business that supports the advancement of the urban community. By spreading the message of self-reliance and providing opportunities to qualified individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, he hopes to break the cycle that keeps generations impoverished";

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

Whereas, William Johnson has been involved in more than 20 film projects and independent short films and features, including "Motives 2", "The Mannsfield 12", "Crossover", "Doing Hard Time", "Tears of a Clown", "Motives", "Move", "Wanted: Soulful Energy Xchange" with Gary Dourdan and Mari Morrow, and director Tony Spires' "Two Degrees" starring Don "DC" Curry;

Whereas, Domingo Guyton, Terrence "Ty" Mann, Reggie Gaskin, and Christopher Nolen also attended the Fifth Annual Bill Johnson Film Festival;

Whereas, Domingo Guyton is President of HOPE Multimedia Company, whose mission is "to create, produce, and promote expressive art based on Christian principles that uplift, educate, and positively impact all of humanity";

Whereas, Born and raised in Mattapan, Massachusetts, Domingo used these experiences to apply the essence of that culture to his college classroom experience;

Whereas, Domingo's early life experiences are documented in two books - "Teens with the Courage to Give" by Jackie Waldman and "Passionaries" by Barbara Metzler;

Whereas, Domingo's music has appeared in TV shows and movies, he was the drummer for six years for Grammy Award winning Tavares, and he was the writer, producer, and director of YTF, which won five awards including the Audience Award at the 2013 San Francisco Black Film Festival, and the Best Inspirational Film at the 2013 Peachtree Village International



Film Festival;

Whereas, Domingo was also the co-producer of the film "Lest We Forget: The Black Holocaust", which won Best Documentary for HBO films at the 2007 Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival;

Whereas, Major (Retired) Terrence "Ty" Manns enlisted in the United States Army in 1980 after having been accepted into the ROTC program at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio;

Whereas, Upon graduation in 1989, Ty was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Regular Army and served as an Infantry Officer in tactical assignments in Germany, Korea, and worldwide from 1989 to 2003; however, Ty never lost his passion for storytelling and filmmaking;

Whereas, In 1999 Ty met Rick Bieber, former President of HBO Pictures, and, with his support and mentoring, Ty's filmmaking knowledge and experience expanded;

Whereas, In 2006 Ty and Rick joined together to create the independent film production company Angel City Pictures (ACP);

Whereas, In 2011, Ty formed CME Films where he wrote, produced, and directed films including "The Turning Point", a faith based film about a soldier suffering from PTSD, and "The ITCH", a comedy about a couple's relationship troubles at the seven year point of their marriage;

Whereas, Reggie Gaskins is an award winning writer and director who began his acting career at the prestigious Freedom Theatre, where he perfected his skills as an actor, playwright, and director;

Whereas, Reggie Gaskins began writing plays for himself because he was unhappy with the limitations of the roles in which he was cast;

Whereas, Moving to Los Angeles, Reggie found success as a comedic actor, television and film writer, director, and



producer;

Whereas, Reggie has also found success as an independent film writer, producer, and director with two award winning films, "The Lying Truth" and "Restraining Order";

Whereas, Christopher Nolen founded Nferno Productions in 1998;

Whereas, Christopher has created a proven brand of urban entertainment, production, and distribution by creating positive and entertaining content for minorities and global audiences as a whole;

Whereas, Christopher's projects include the feature length films "Deep Passion", "Subtle Seduction", "The Good Life", "Four Seasons", and "72 Hours";

Whereas, Excited and passionate about writing, directing, and producing films, Christopher is looking to expand his talents into the world of television;

Whereas, Christopher began working in the industry as a model in Chicago, which naturally turned to acting and finally led him to writing, producing, and directing;

Whereas, The Bill Johnson Film Festival came about as an idea to help northwest Indiana come together to share ideas and discussion surrounding film messages; and

Whereas, The arts are a valuable tool in creating an atmosphere of understanding and opening a discussion to help bring the community together in a meaningful way: Therefore,

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

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives recognizes
2 the value to the community of the Bill Johnson Film Festival and
3 thanks William L. Johnson for dedicating his time and energy to this
4 worthwhile project.
5 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
6 Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to the African



1 American Achievers Youth Corps, Inc., and William L. Johnson.

