



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: Smith V

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing the 11th 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", and "Perfectly Single";*

14 *Whereas, The 11th annual Bill Johnson Black Film Festival*
 15 *will feature student films "Cereal" by Dusan Brown, "Black*
 16 *Mamba Sable" by Okema "Seven" Gunn, "Chocolate Milk" by*
 17 *Jonathan Rowan, "Breathe" by Jonathan Rowan, "Baking*
 18 *Cookies" by Sheena Gates, "Love Conquers" by Eric Bendross,*
 19 *and "Smell the Trees" by Breyionna Flowers;*

20 *Whereas, The 11th annual Bill Johnson Black Film Festival*
 21 *will feature the films "Dancing in My Sadness" by Julien Thirty,*
 22 *"All I Have" by Matt Winters, "Lovebugs" by Aaron J. Davis,*
 23 *"In Memory Of" by Rico Shay, "All by Design" by Asha*
 24 *Chai-Chang, "All for Honor" by Brigid Turner, "Blind*
 25 *Ambivalence" by Lydia Lane Nix, "TMI" by A. Reggie Gaskins,*
 26 *"An Offer Refused" by Lilton Stewart III, "Get Home Safe" by*
 27 *Britt Banks, "The Purgatory of Ghosts and Grief" by*
 28 *Demetrious Canty, and "Requiem for Black Love" by Eric*
 29 *Almond;*

30 *Whereas, The 11th annual Bill Johnson Black Film Festival*
 31 *will include special features of "The Yarborough Way" by*
 32 *Benedict A. Dorsey, "Inexistent" by Benny Flames, "Roman" by*
 33 *Dwight Wilkins, and "Induced" by Johnnard Thomas Harper;*

34 *Whereas, The 11th annual Bill Johnson Black Film Festival*
 35 *will feature the documentaries "Not Just A Name" by De'Onna*
 36 *"Tree" Young-Stephens, "Roots of the Race Amity Movement"*



1 *by William Smith, "Sherod" by William Feagins, Jr., "A Loc &*
2 *A Twist" by Tyler Griffin, and "DiaTribe: From The Village To*
3 *The Streets" by A.J. Wone;*

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

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

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

14 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives
15 recognizes the value to the community of the 11th annual Bill
16 Johnson Black Film Festival and thanks William L. Johnson for
17 dedicating his time and energy to this worthwhile project.

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

