



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: Smith V

A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing the Fourth 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, Trey Haley, Oliver W. Ottley III, and Reggie Gaskins also attended the Fourth Annual Bill Johnson Film Festival;

Whereas, Trey Haley began his career in Denton, Texas, as a cable programmer and editor while attending the University of North Texas, majoring in Radio, Television and Film;

Whereas, After moving to Los Angeles, Trey was mentored by some of the hottest music video directors in the business and worked with some top production companies, including Revelations Entertainment (Morgan Freeman's company) and A Band Apart (Quentin Tarantino's company);

Whereas, Known for his positive spirit, ability to find creative ways to bring people together, and his passion to create projects that can change people's perception of the world, Trey is a force to be reckoned with in the industry;

Whereas, As President and Partner of Tri Destined Studios, Trey is responsible for overseeing the implementation of all studio productions and events, including creating diverse venture partnerships;



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, Born in Augusta, Georgia, Oliver W. Ottley III graduated from The Academy of Richmond County (ARC) in Augusta, Georgia, one of the oldest existing public high schools in the United States and the oldest existing public high school in the South;

Whereas, Oliver is best known for his work on the 2013 film "CRU", which tells the story of four characters whose lives were forever changed after they were involved in a near-fatal car accident as teenagers;

Whereas, In addition to his work on "CRU", Oliver has worked on a variety of films and television shows, including "Real Husbands of Hollywood";

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 open 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
7 American Achievers Youth Corps, Inc., and William L. Johnson.

