

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____**

Introduced by: Smith V

A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing the 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 will be 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 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, JoAnna Rhambo and Reggie Gaskins also attended the Bill Johnson Film Festival;

Whereas, JoAnna Rhambo began studying acting, singing, and modern, jazz, African and ballet dancing as a teenager;

Whereas, Her first stage production was "Chicago Club Ramboogie", performing in several runs of the production, which went on to earn multiple NAACP Theatre Awards;

Whereas, Eager to learn all about the film making process, JoAnna Rhambo has worked in several different positions on productions, including producing, casting, script supervisor, and assistant director;

Whereas, In 2011, JoAnna started her own production company called Hazel Honey Films;

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, 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
2 recognizes the value to the community of the Bill Johnson Film
3 Festival and thanks William L. Johnson for dedicating his time and
4 energy to this 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.

