

2013-J84

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring World and Olympic 400m track and field champion Kirani James upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Grenada Boys Secondary School Alumni Association of New York, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those esteemed individuals who distinguish themselves through outstanding achievements in worldwide athletic competition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor World and Olympic 400m track and field champion Kirani James upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Grenada Boys Secondary School Alumni Association of New York, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, This special event is the Grenada Boys Secondary School Alumni Association of New York, Inc.'s 21st Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony; the celebration will be held on Saturday, December 8, 2012, at Antun's in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Born in the village of Gouyave, St. John on the island of Grenada, Kirani James is a Grenadian sprinter who specializes in the 200 and 400 meters; he is the reigning World and Olympic 400m champion; and

WHEREAS, At a young age, Kirani James ran the fastest 400m times ever by a 14- and 15-year-old; he won a series of gold medals at the CARIFTA Games, the Commonwealth Youth Games, and rose on the international stage with 400m silver medals at the 2007 World Youth and 2008 World Junior Championships; and

WHEREAS, Kirani James became the first athlete to run a 200/400 double at the 2009 World Youth Championships and was the 2010 World Junior Champion; he gained an athletic scholarship at the University of Alabama and won back-to-back NCAA Outdoor Championship titles in his first two years; he is the third fastest of all-time indoors 44.80 seconds, and ran a personal best of 44.36 at the 2011 IAAF Diamond League in Zurich; and

WHEREAS, In his first ever appearance on an indoor track with the University of Alabama, Kirani James ran 45.79 in the 400 meters, placing first and breaking the 10 year old school record of 46.46 held by Cori

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WHEREAS, Kirani James moved up to third on the all-time indoor lists in February of 2011, recording 44.80 seconds to win at the SEC Indoor Championships; after the end of the college season, he made his professional debut at the London Grand Prix Diamond League meeting and established himself among the world's best with a personal best run of 44.61 seconds, a time which made him the fastest man that year; and WHEREAS, At the 2011 World Championships in Daegu, South Korea, both Kirani James and fellow Grenadian runner Rondell Bartholomew, made the finals of the 400m event; Kirani James won the event in a personal best of 44.60 seconds, becoming the youngest 400m world champion at the age of 18; the medal is the first for Grenada in any event at the outdoor version of the World Championships in Athletics; and WHEREAS, Nine days later, Kirani James won the 400m at the 2011 IAAF Diamond League in Zurich with a new personal best of 44.36 seconds; and WHEREAS, At the London 2012 Olympics, Kirani James won the 400m semi-final 2, achieving a season best of 44.59 seconds; on August 6, 2012, he won the 400m Olympic gold in a time of 43.94, a national record, earning Grenada its first Olympic medal; he was the first non-US runner to break the 44-second mark; he is currently ranked first in the world in the Men's 400 meters; and WHEREAS, A gifted athlete, Kirani James has become a role model in society as well as the sport of track and field; his character and

achievements stand as a sterling example and inspiration to all who would aspire to success; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor World and Olympic 400m track and field champion Kirani James upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kirani James.