

STATE OF NEW YORK  
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY  
BUFFALO, NY, JUNE 8, 2019

*Congratulating and Honoring  
Rahim Dunston  
As the recipient of the  
2019 Youth Award*

**WHEREAS**, **Rahim Dunston**, a resident of the City of Buffalo also known to family and friends as “Rah Rah” is 16 years of age and is an 11th grader at the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts; and

**WHEREAS**, Rahim has been on the honor or merit roll for his academics since the Fifth Grade; and

**WHEREAS**, as an instrumental music major, Rahim has an intricate role as a violin player in the senior orchestra as well as the student faculty quartet along with being a participant in the Erie County Music Educators Association (ECMEA) and is a member of the All County Senior Orchestra in which Rahim is one of two African American musicians in the orchestra; and

**WHEREAS**, for different things such as speeches, entertainment, or a demonstration of what the school offers to guests, frequently, the school principal or teachers recommend Rahim to represent Performing Arts at community events as a member of the Larry Salter Soul Orchestra performing throughout the community at events such as the annual Black Achievers Gala, Mayor Byron Brown’s Inauguration, Mayor Byron Brown’s annual Senior Community picnic, National Night Out at the Martha Mitchell community center, Mandela’s Market at the annual Nelson Mandela birthday, and the annual Buffalo Urban League Gala; and

**WHEREAS**, Rahim performs with the Larry Salter Soul Orchestra in the string section and as a soloist and also is a member of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra which consists of Buffalo Philharmonic players, college students and community players; and

**WHEREAS**, Rahim is the youngest and only African American in the violin string section at the age of 15; and

**WHEREAS**, with aspirations of continuing his musical craft with a collegiate institution, Rahim also shares an interest in the theater and hopes to attend college as a double major; and

**WHEREAS**, Rahim has performed in over 10 plays and musicals over a course of 6 years lead roles in school plays such as (Charlie) Willie Wonka’s Charlie and The Chocolate Factory, (Simba) The Lion King, Les Miserables, and The Laramie Project which is based on a true story, and Rahim and the cast of Les Miserables won the 2019 Kenny Award for Outstanding Musical Production; and

**WHEREAS**, recently, Rahim debuted in the local streaming TV Series on SkoVu TV, was involved in a movie called” Hope for Christmas” which aired on MeTV in December 2018, and in the past month Rahim was in a commercial, New York Touris; and

**WHEREAS**, Rahim has appeared live on Channel 7 as a weather kid with Mike Randall; and

**WHEREAS**, Rahim has been accepted to the NYSSSA New York State Summer School of Arts Theatre program for summer 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Rahim has studied martial arts since he was 8 years old and is currently a 2nd degree black belt and certified in 3 different weapons and has dedicated some of his mental and physical being to the Dojang, a discipline, releveing stress, learning self-defense, and confidence, and has competed in Buffalo, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Niagara Falls, Hamilton and Toronto, Canada in Tae Kwon Do receiving over 50 trophies in 1st 2nd and 3rd places in all categories of forms, sparring and weapons and also receiving The Grand Champion Award and being selected as one of the junior leaders at the school; and

**WHEREAS**, outside of Rahim’s musical, martial arts and theatrical expertise and skill, he shares an interest in serving the community, for which he received the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Founder’s Youth Award for his dedication to the youth and community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, it is with great honor that this the Erie County Legislature hereby applauds and recognizes Rahim Dunston for his exceptional achievements and superior musical talent and community service throughout the City of Buffalo, as well as his positive influence on others, representing fellow young black men in an outstanding way; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Honorable Body expresses our pride of Rahim upon the occasion of his being named as 2019 Youth Award awardee, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations and praise to Rahim on representing Erie County.

*In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and signature.*

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**Hon. April N.M. Baskin**  
*Chair of the Erie County Legislature*  
*Erie County Legislator, 2<sup>nd</sup> District*

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**Robert M. Graber**  
*Clerk of the Erie County Legislator*