

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, JULY 22, 2021

In Remembrance of Arthur Edward "Juini" Booth

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, on June 10th, 2021, removed from our midst *Arthur Edward "Juini" Booth*, in whose death we have lost a loving father, brother, valued and respected citizen, and whose family has lost a leader, kind and devoted member; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Booth was born in Buffalo, the younger of two children of Arthur Edward and Mary Walker Booth, and grew up on Chester Street in the Cold Springs neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Booth's first instrument was the family piano and would go on to learn how to play the cello at age 12 and then switched to bass and never looked back; and

WHEREAS, he went on to become a member of the string class and played bass in bands at East High School; and

WHEREAS, Arthur also played in the orchestra at Lafayette High School and also spent time in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Booth was the music director at Buffalo's Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center from 1981 to 1982 and at the Niagara Arts Council in St. Catharines, Ontario, in the early 1990s; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, he combined bebop and hip-hop to come up with bop-hop, assembling an assortment of noted local musicians into the group Jazz-Jazz V.P., which combined old and new styles; and

WHEREAS, this group also performed at the site of the Old War Memorial Stadium for the Funfest organized by the Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers; and

WHEREAS, through the years, Mr. Booth played locally at many places, from the Pine Grill Reunion, the Calumet Arts Cafe and the Tralf Music Hall to the Ol' Wondermoth co-op house, and in 1995, at a rare solo recital to celebrate John Coltrane's birthday, in Borders bookstore in Cheektowaga; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, while celebrating his 50th year as a performer, Mr. Booth played the Tralf with Stanley Clarke and headlined Nietzsche's with Juini Booth's Super Drum 'n' Bass; and

WHEREAS, Arthur followed up with monumental anniversary in Los Angeles with a show at the Zebulon Cafe that was described as "an improvisational performance of cosmic proportions."; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Booth was predeceased by his older son, Masai; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Booth's life and legacy will continue to prosper on Earth by his son, Chad and his sister, Mary Booth-Bowden; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Booth's deep ties to legends in the world of jazz and Avant-Garde music make him unique and left a prominent footprint on the development of 20th century jazz; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to the life of *Arthur Edward "Juini" Booth* whose lifelong dedication to God, family, music and community are an inspiration to be admired, emulated and honored.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby mourn the passing of *Arthur Edward "Juini" Booth* and pause in its deliberations to recognize his praiseworthy life, his love of family, his love for creating exceptional music and for his commitment and devotion to the betterment of our community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature express its sympathy and condolences to the Booth family, the Bowden family and to his many friends, knowing full well that he has received his eternal and glorified reward in Heaven, having heard the consoling words of the Master, "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant.*"

Hon. Howard J. Johnson Jr.
Erie County Legislator, 1st District

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Erie County Legislature