Legislation Text

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Recognizing Philadelphia as America's original music City-celebrating its dedication to the arts, its legacy of producing world-class musicians across genres, and its powerful economic impact, generating billions in revenue, jobs, tourism, and local business growth.

WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia has a long history of musical talent, from mainstream media to the fine arts. Philadelphia is home to more than forty venues that host artists from all over the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia has been home to exceptional artists throughout U.S. history, spanning both mainstream media and the fine arts. The City cemented its place in musical history through esteemed institutions such as the Curtis Institute of Music, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Academy of Music-the oldest opera house in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The City has been home to legends like Teddy Pendergrass, Boyz II Men, The Roots, Patti LaBelle, Hall & Oates, Will Smith, Jasmine Sullivan, Freeway, and Tierra Whack; and

WHEREAS, While other cities may be recognized for country or hip-hop music, Philadelphia has a rich musical legacy that includes hip-hop and its own distinct genre, Philly Soul-a cultural blend of funk, R&B, and hip-hop; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia provides free music education resources through organizations like Play On Philly and Rock to the Future, nurturing talent from early childhood through 12th grade. It is essential that the City continues to support these young artists as they grow, helping them transition into professional careers in the industry; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2025 Music Industry Economic Impact Memo by Econsult Solutions, the music industry in Philadelphia alone produces $6.1 billion in total annual output. The music economy represents a huge portion of the City's arts and culture scene as well as wages and compensation, supporting 33,000 jobs and providing $1.4 billion in compensation. This industry provides jobs not just for artists, but also in administration, healthcare, real estate, and transportation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby recognizes Philadelphia as the original music City, and honor the countless artists and industry professionals who work tirelessly to cultivate and showcase talent in our city.