



## Legislation Text

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### Res. No. 346

Resolution recognizing the contributions of Hip Hop to arts and culture by designating August 2023 as Hip Hop Recognition and History Month and August 11, 2023 as Hip Hop Celebration Day in the City of New York.

By Council Members Williams, Riley, Stevens, Restler, Joseph, Fariás, Abreu, Louis, Ossé and Rivera

Whereas, DJ Kool Herc introduced his innovative DJing skills on two turntables in the Bronx on August 11, 1973, officially giving birth to the music of Hip Hop culture; and

Whereas, Rappers added their poetry to the DJs' beats, giving the crowd a look into the often hard realities of their lives and their hopes for the future; and

Whereas, masters of ceremonies (MCs) commanded the mics to reach out to the audience to keep the parties going, before adding their own freestyle talents to the mix; and

Whereas, break-boys (b-boys) and break-girls (b-girls) created a new style of dancing and brought it to the streets, making breaking an integral part of the culture; and

Whereas, Graffiti writers decorated urban spaces in their own unique styles, sometimes risking their own safety and the wrath of law enforcement and property owners; and

Whereas, Hip Hop culture produced artists who honed their talents in theater and literature, telling their stories of race, class, gender, activism, and empowerment; and

Whereas, Hip Hop preaches, through some of its greatest voices, the values of community, freedom, justice, peace, self-respect, and respect for others; and

Whereas, Hip Hop began with performers and supporters in the Black and Caribbean communities in New York City (NYC), including especially NYC's Puerto Rican community, but expanded rapidly to embrace people of many races, ethnicities, religions, and socioeconomic statuses; and

Whereas, Hip Hop performers have built a multi-billion dollar industry, which contributes to the health of NYC's economy; and

Whereas, Hip Hop performers are well known for giving back to the NYC communities they come from, often providing charitable contributions and words of support to NYC residents in need, including to NYC's schoolchildren; and

Whereas, In 2021, the United States (U.S.) Senate passed Resolution 331, designating August 11, 2021 as Hip Hop Celebration Day; the month of August 2021 as Hip Hop Recognition Month; and the month of November 2021 as Hip Hop History Month; and

Whereas, Hip Hop culture, as it now reaches its official 50th anniversary in 2023, continues to thrive today throughout NYC, across the U.S., and around the world; and

Whereas, The designation of a holiday to commemorate the early days of Hip Hop culture in NYC celebrates the positive impact that Hip Hop has had and continues to have on NYC communities and commerce; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York recognize the contributions of Hip Hop to arts and culture by designating August 2023 as Hip Hop Recognition and History Month and August 11, 2023 as Hip Hop Celebration Day in the City of New York.

LS #10354  
9/30/22  
RHP