

CITY OF NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

COMMENDATION

PRESENTED TO

DENNIS RAHIIM WATSON

For more than three decades of outstanding work to support families and young New Yorkers across the five boroughs; for his commitment to ending gun violence in African American communities; for his steadfast leadership as Chairman of the Black Men Against Gun Violence Task Force and President/CEO of the Center for Black Student Achievement; for his dedicated efforts to address issues affecting our City's African American residents; for working together with community leaders and elected officials to raise awareness about the negative impacts of gun violence; for his devoted efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers; and for his tremendous contributions to the City of New York.



SCOTT M. STRINGER
COMPTROLLER
SEPTEMBER 23, 2017





Office of the Manhattan Borough President
City of New York

Proclamation

Whereas: We are proud to acknowledge those organizations and individuals that have remained committed to improving our city and vibrantly enriching the community; and

Whereas: Dennis Rahiim Watson has proven himself to be an extraordinary citizen several times over, as he, a motivational speaker, has become the Chairman of the Black Men Against Gun Violence Task Force, in which he makes relentless efforts to stop gun violence in all five boroughs of the City of New York; and

Whereas: in addition to being a motivational speaker, Mr. Watson is also an educator, activist, and humanitarian, overcoming great odds and challenges himself through his educational career at Harlem Preparatory School, Fordham University and Pace University; and

Whereas: the reach of Mr. Watson extends farther than the City, as he has spoken throughout New York State through a variety of locations such as churches, prisons, colleges and universities, all on the topics of fatherlessness, teen pregnancy, bullying, profanity, and threats, demonstrating a refusal to overlook the issues integral to the collective psyche of young individuals; and

Whereas: Mr. Watson has traveled throughout Manhattan and the State of New York with his "Black on Black Love" campaign, specially designed to foster an attitude of self-love, respect for others, bolstering respect for one's culture and heritage wherever he addresses others, including the NAACP, the National Governors Association, the CUNY Black Male Initiative conferences, the Boys and Girls Club of America, among others; and

Whereas: the seeds long since sown, the influence of Bermudian ecologist and Pan-Africanist Dr. Pauulu Kamarakafego, and Dr. Edward Carpenter founder and Head Master of the Harlem Preparatory School for Dropouts, have blossomed into the character of Mr. Watson, who has reaped and multiplied their influence, love, and teachings to uplift and serve fellow African-Americans; and


Whereas: for more than three decades of dedicated speaking and encouragement, Dennis Rahiim Watson has received numerous awards, including five White House citations, receiving honor from Congressman Charles Rangel, and a letter from former President Barack Obama proclaiming that Mr. Watson is a role model and has done great work with African American youth;

Now Therefore,

I, Gale A. Brewer, do hereby commend Dennis Rahiim Watson for his contributions to the City and proclaim Saturday, August 19, 2017 as,

"Dennis Rahiim Watson Appreciation Day"
in the Borough of Manhattan.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Borough of Manhattan to be affixed.


Gale A. Brewer
President, Borough of Manhattan

