

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

WELCOMING DR. AMINA BLACKWOOD MEEKS TO THE RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE AND COMMENDING HER FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING COMMUNITY

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, McEntee, Tanzi, Fellela, Kennedy, Ajello, and Shallcross Smith

Date Introduced: February 01, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Amina Blackwood Meeks began her illustrious career as a successful
2 journalist, but to the good fortune of children and bibliophiles around the world, she chose to
3 devote her copious talents to restoring the old Jamaican tradition of storytelling; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Meeks holds a PhD in Cultural Studies and is an acclaimed Actress and
5 Storyteller, the Founder/Artistic Director, Ntukuma, The Storytelling, as well as an award-
6 winning writer; and

7 WHEREAS, Orating her stories in both English and Jamaican, Dr. Meeks' stories are not
8 only entertaining, but they also teach important lessons to children. Good manners and behavior,
9 the importance of telling the truth, and how to be kind and loving are all woven into her beautiful
10 words, both educating and helping children to understand the world and celebrate their roots; and

11 WHEREAS, Admired and recognized by her peers, Dr. Meeks has amassed myriad
12 honors including being an Inductee in the Caribbean Hall of Fame, receiving the Gold Star of
13 Cayman, and being named the Best Actress, ITI Actor Boy Awards, and Best Actress, Tallawah
14 Drama Festival, UWI, Mona; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Meeks has been a host of speaking engagements across the Caribbean,
16 Africa, Europe and North America, and as part of the Annual FundaFest Celebration hosted by
17 the RI Black Storytellers and the Jamaican Association of RI, she is graciously sharing her talents
18 and visiting Rhode Island; and

19 WHEREAS, Described as "A special and rare talent" and "One of the most dynamic and

1 charismatic proponents of storytelling...” Dr. Meeks is eminently worthy of our recognition and
2 applause; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
4 warmly welcomes Dr. Amina Blackwood Meeks to the Rhode Island State House and commends
5 her on her many contributions to the international storytelling community. We moreover wish
6 her much happiness, good health and plenteous continued success; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dr. Amina Blackwood Meeks.

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