

## THE ETHIOPIAN WORLD FEDERATION, LOCAL NUMBER FIVE, INCORPORATED



### Ras Makonnen

**Dedicated to the Freedom and Independence of Africa, and the Cause of Right, Justice and Full Opportunity for Black Peoples Everywhere**

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Pleasant Good Morning Madam Chair,

Good morning also to all present and everyone viewing and listening. My name is Phil Codrington a member of The Ethiopian World Federation Local Number Five Incorporated. (T.E.W.F. L5I) A registered membership organization in existence since 1937. Established by H.I.M. Emperor Haile Selassie 1<sup>st</sup> for the black people of the worlds. Our preamble states "We the Black People of the World, in order to effect Unity, Solidarity, Liberty, Freedom and self-determination, to secure Justice and maintain the Integrity of Ethiopia, which is our divine heritage, do hereby establish and ordain this constitution for The Ethiopian World Federation, Incorporated.

The T.E.W.F. applauds the senate and the executive branch for recognizing the musical contribution of Mr. Vaughn A. Benjamin and granting him the honor of naming the Park along the western side of veteran's drive in his honor with signage bearing the Tile Akea Beka with the construction of a monument bearing his image. The T.E.W.F. welcomes the support of the V.I. government and the global community in helping give Vaughn recognition due in perpetuity. The Kabba Stone of The Rastafari Community here in the V.I. & beyond, Akea Beka The Legendary. A global mentor & teacher.... particularly via Roots Reggae Music

I am here on behalf of T.E.W.F. Local Number Five Inc. in support of Bill No. 35-0030 recognizing Vaughn A Benjamin, lead vocalist of the Midnite band & later the Akea Beka band. Vaughn whom I new personally and had the privilege to reason with 1 on 1 on several occasions. There are many things I can think of to speak about concerning Vaughn and the memories I have of him and his brother Ronnie, honorable mention also to Phil Merchant & Dion "Bosie" Hopkins, Whom I know as well. It would be more appropriate to just quote just a few of his roots lyrics from his over one thousand plus Tracks.

“They have low ways sweet and convincing in the beginning the two faces of evil and oppression. True face of negatives and suppression... I am the Kabba stone, the original corner stone the Kabba Stone. Polarity the paradox is in the ugliness of vanity. Destroying the blueprint so no one can see who is the original and who is the copy. Track tittle “Kabba Stone.”

It’s a time of technological advancement unparalleled and still it is a difficult time, a time where crime blows mind, at the depravity of heinous actions. Don’t go boy down the youth they are men of mission in ah majority juvenile cause they have courage long coil. Behind a deceptively beguiling relaxing smile. A they nuh bad neither, spirit really loyal to their side it could ah evil they unite down for one another whatever for life, they have it in ah scars and stripe they have it in ah throw up affiliation signs always have ghetto man ties all in international is the something you find.

Bless up mi heart be well Haile Selassie when he speaks, he breaks the Babylon spell one of the first dispersions away taken oh Jah save the people heart to drink wisdom well.... Track tittle “Arise”

They try to put a bit into my mouth that I might obey and go whichever way you say and say whatever you say say but I know your works way negative even though they keep holding on to my name.

Track tittle ” Who built Jerusalem.” On behalf of The Executive Committee of The Ethiopian World Federation Local Number Five Inc. We give thanks for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Phil Codrington  
**Sergeant of Arms TEWF**