

“Bill No. 35-0030 is befitting of Vaughn Benjamin due in part to his legacy as an artist and his encouragement for lifelong learning and civic engagement. Through his music and message, he was a vocal advocate for pan-African solidarity and often spoke out against imperialism, colonialism, and neocolonialism in various parts of the world. In his words, he found helping many “very fulfilling and civic”. As a young adult coming into the world, he reassured me in my educational endeavors, encouraging me to stick to my path because the possibilities were limitless, and to “have sparkling thoughts”. He urged me to “stay conscientious. listen and observe closely”. These words I took with me throughout my educational journey, and I hope they inspire other youth to pursue their aspirations and engage positively with their communities. I believe these words, in combination with his advocacy for marginalized peoples, thought-provoking musical activism, and encouragement for continuous learning make him a suitable recipient of this honor.” -

Niani Benjamin