

Senate Resolution 884

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Albers of the 56th, Howard of the 35th, Jackson of the 41st and Wicks of the 34th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Art in The Paint and its founder, Aurelius Cooper, Jr., for
2 their outstanding community impact and service through art, athletics, and youth
3 engagement; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Aurelius Cooper, Jr., is a native of southwest Atlanta who has built a
5 distinguished career in basketball, including work in the NBA and playing and coaching
6 professional basketball in multiple countries, including the Dominican Republic, Spain,
7 France, and Taiwan; and

8 WHEREAS, Aurelius Cooper, Jr., has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to youth
9 and community development, including service as a former Fulton County Youth
10 Commissioner
11 and as the current owner of two developmental basketball franchises, both named Metro
12 Ballers, competing in the Women's United Basketball Association and the United Basketball
13 Association; and

14 WHEREAS, Aurelius Cooper, Jr., has expanded the impact of athletics beyond competition
15 by hosting basketball clinics for underserved athletes in countries such as Australia,
16 Germany, Lagos, and Nigeria; and

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17 WHEREAS, Arelious Cooper, Jr., is the author of a children's book, *Cooper Shapes Up*, that
18 encourages healthy food choices and physical activity, and has donated more than 1,000
19 copies of the book to children in the United States, Ghana, and the Dominican Republic; and

20 WHEREAS, Art In The Paint has completed more than 70 public art and infrastructure
21 projects, transforming over one million square feet of space, and has empowered
22 communities by incorporating resident input into design decisions, fostering pride,
23 ownership, and contributing to reductions in reported crime in surrounding areas; and

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25 WHEREAS, Art In The Paint has supported economic opportunity by collaborating with
26 more than 20 small businesses and over 10 entrepreneurs through initiatives such as
27 partnerships with Michelob Ultra, and has expanded its work beyond Atlanta to international
28 projects, including in Zambia, with continued growth into additional cities.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 recognize and commend Art In The Paint and Arelious Cooper, Jr., for their innovative use
31 of art and athletics to enhance public health, strengthen communities, and create meaningful
32 opportunities for youth and families.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Art In The Paint and
35 Arelious Cooper, Jr.