

**CITY COUNCIL****The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**DATE March 5, 2024NUMBER 126-2024

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING JENNIFER INAMAGUA FOR HER PROGRESSION TO THE POETRY OUT LOUD REGION 5.  
(Sponsored by Council Member Adrienne Wooten & the Orange Municipal Council)**

**WHEREAS**, after a competitive and creative district-wide Poetry Out Loud competition, Orange High School senior Jennifer Inamagua progressed to the Poetry Out Loud Region 5 Contest held locally at the South Orange Performing Arts Center on February 6. Region 5 of the statewide competition consists of Essex and Union counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Gina Hulings, board member and Arts Education committee member from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts welcomed the crowd to start the competition.; and

**WHEREAS**, Johanna Wright and Anita Mack introduced the finalists from the region for three rounds of the contest, which included Ms. Inamagua's peers from West Orange, Newark, Livingston, Springfield, and more; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Inamagua captivated the audience at the competition's first round with her well-rehearsed recitations; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Inamagua displayed a profound understanding of her chosen poems, Jennifer started her first round entry with "Crossing the Bar," delivering it with heartfelt precision; and

**WHEREAS**, despite a momentary stumble in her second poem, William Blake's "A Poison Tree," Jennifer swiftly recovered and concluded firmly; and

**WHEREAS**, the audience was especially engaged during Jennifer's final poem by Gwendolyn Brooks, entitled "Truth," expressing their admiration with cheers as she gracefully exited the stage; and

**WHEREAS**, the competition's judges emphasized the significance of the rubric, accuracy, and thoughtful poem selection rather than the length or liveliness of student performance; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey Poetry Out Loud is a project of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the Count Basie Center for the Arts; and

**WHEREAS**, Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program, led by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, in partnership with the state and jurisdictional arts agencies across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, in New Jersey, the State Arts Council and the Basie Center work with a growing network of regional partners to implement the program across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council gave a special commendation to Orange Superintendent Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh, II, for being the first superintendent in the region to attend their Poetry Out Loud event at the South Orange Performing Arts Center and showing strong support from at the school district level. Dr. Russo, Dr. Griffin, Mr. Worthington, and Ms. Jackson added a touch of distinction to the day with their attendance.