

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ovadia Abulafia, M.D., upon the occasion of his designation by the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush as the recipient of the Distinguished Medical Rofeh Award at its 30th Anniversary Community Legislative Breakfast on March 15, 2009

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those illustrious individuals of the State of New York whose purposeful endeavors serve to enhance the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend Dr. Ovadia Abulafia upon the occasion of his designation for special honor by the Council of Jewish Organizations (COJO) of Flatbush as the recipient of its 2009 Distinguished Medical Rofeh Award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ovadia Abulafia, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, will accept the award on behalf of SUNY Downstate Medical Center at the Council's 30th Anniversary Community Legislative Breakfast, to be held at The Kings Terrace in Brooklyn, New York, on Sunday, March 15, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Since 1979, the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush has coordinated the efforts of all parts of the Jewish community, including educational, healthcare, religious, social welfare and other organizations and institutions, and has acted as an advocate for the communal and individual needs of the entire, increasingly diverse, Southern Brooklyn community; and

WHEREAS, Its 30th Anniversary Community Legislative Breakfast provides an opportunity to pay tribute to those who have supported the Council and have helped to further its efforts, as well as those who exemplify its mission of improving the quality of life of the citizens it serves; and

WHEREAS, SUNY Downstate Medical Center is Brooklyn's only academic medical center; older than the Brooklyn Bridge, when founded in 1860, its faculty revolutionized medical education, bringing the teaching of medicine to the hospital bedside rather than being taught exclusively in the lecture hall; and

WHEREAS, Today, SUNY Downstate Medical Center is one of New York State's and the nation's leading urban medical centers and is fittingly being honored in recognition and appreciation of its unremitting dedication to serving the people of Brooklyn, among the most diverse populations in the world, in keeping with its mission of providing outstanding education, research, and patient care; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ovadia Abulafia, proudly accepting the Distinguished Medical Rofeh Award on behalf of the Medical Center, was born in Israel and earned his medical degree from the Tel Aviv University Sackler School of Medicine; he completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at SUNY Downstate Medical Center and, later, a Fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester and is board certified in both Obstetrics and Gynecology and Gynecologic Oncology; and

WHEREAS, After completing his fellowship, Dr. Ovadia Abulafia served the indigent population of Huntington, West Virginia as Director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology in the Ob/Gyn Department at Marshall University School of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, He returned to New York City in May 1997 to be Chief of the Ob/Gyn Service at Kings County Hospital and Dr. Ovadia Abulafia has, since September 1997, been affiliated with SUNY Downstate Medical

Center, currently ably serving as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ovadia Abulafia has established a record of academic and professional excellence; he is recognized nationally and internationally in the field of Gynecologic Oncology, has served on the national committee which establishes the standard of care for the clinical management of cervical cancer, has had many peer-reviewed papers published in prestigious medical journals, and is a longtime Principal Investigator for the Gynecologic Oncology Group of the National Cancer Institute; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ovadia Abulafia continues to teach medical students, to direct SUNY Downstate Medical Center's Ob/Gyn residency and Gynecologic Oncology fellowship programs, and to be committed to assisting the underprivileged and less fortunate and to ensuring the deliverance of the best possible medical care to all patients and, in addition, continues to maintain an active practice as a gynecologic oncologist and surgeon; and

WHEREAS, With Dr. Ovadia Abulafia throughout have been his wife Alison, and their daughters, Abigail and Rachel, all of whom are proud to be part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend them for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Ovadia Abulafia upon the occasion of his designation as the recipient of the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush's Distinguished Medical Rofeh Award at its 30th Anniversary Community Legislative Breakfast on March 15, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Ovadia Abulafia.