

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 5th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Community Pride Center

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize the profound impact of those exemplary organizations within the great State of New York which proactively work for the enfranchisement of minority communities, and the importance of such work for the benefit of all citizens of this State, and indeed, all citizens of the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Community Pride Center, to be celebrated on Thursday, April 4, 2013; and

WHEREAS, This fine event will also recognize three distinguished honorees, they are: Tom Smith, Brooklyn Community Pride Center Founding Board President; Reg Flowers, Community Activist; and Suzanne St. Pierre, Attorney at Law; and

WHEREAS, As of 2008, Brooklyn was the only borough in New York City without an LGBTQ center; since then, a group of dedicated volunteers and staff created programming in response to community need that seeks to bridge current gaps in services provided by various social service providers across New York City and Brooklyn, and also addresses the unique needs of Brooklyn's LGBTQ population; and

WHEREAS, The Brooklyn Community Pride Center was granted 501(c) (3) status in 2009, and in September of that year began operating out of Brooklyn Borough Hall with two professional staff members; in March 2011 a part-time development director was hired; and

WHEREAS, In March of 2012, Brooklyn Community Pride Center's first permanent executive director was hired and in August of that same year, its first program director was hired; and

WHEREAS, Since October of 2011, the Brooklyn Community Pride Center has operated at 310 Atlantic Avenue, a centrally located but modestly accommodating space in downtown Brooklyn allowing the organization to bring a more comprehensive and essential social service delivery; in May of 2013, the organization will move to an expanded location at 4 Metro-tech, more than tripling its current size; and

WHEREAS, The Brooklyn Community Pride Center will be in a store front location conveniently located near public transportation, staying true to the organizational mission of serving the diverse borough of Brooklyn; the organization currently serves 1,750 clients annually; and

WHEREAS, Brooklyn Youth United (BYU), founded in 2011, has since served 500 young people; BYU coordinates offsite outings, peer led discussions, youth dances, educational forums on topics including bullying; HIV/AIDS; coming out and support systems; accessing resources; and writing groups, serving the youth population from age 14-24; and

WHEREAS, Coordinating with programs such as Make the Road New York's GLOBE initiative, the Hetrick Martin Institute, H.E.A.T., G.M.A.D. and the Manhattan LGBT Center's Y.E.S. programs, the Brooklyn Community Pride Center helps ensure that youth access comprehensive programming aimed at empowerment; consistent outreach to Brooklyn-based Gay Straight Alliances (GSAs) provides further opportunities to engage with LGBTQ youth and invite them to participate in Brooklyn Community Pride Center's programming; and

WHEREAS, The Brooklyn Community Pride Center hosts ElderPRIDE, which was founded in 2010 and last year served 750 clients; the program is comprised of two parts: a weekly meeting for LGBTQ Brooklynites and their associates aged 50-plus and a six to 10 week discussion series,

"Some Like It Hot," which targets mainstream senior centers that use current and cultural events to shift and talk about LGBTQ issues; and

WHEREAS, The weekly ElderPRIDE meetings provide seniors with an opportunity to socialize with their peers as well as access information about Brooklyn Community Pride Center's legal and medical referrals; the organization's Modern Families program aims to provide social opportunities for LGBTQ families as well as informational forums on topics such as: surrogacy, adoption and family planning, along with financial and estate planning; and

WHEREAS, The Brooklyn Community Pride Center hosts ongoing forums on LGBTQ safety, substance abuse recovery programs, and free legal clinics in partnership with LeGal and the Brooklyn Law School; it also hosts cultural events featuring prominent local visual artists and writers, along with Queer in Faith, a non-denominational monthly conversation with clergy and lay leaders; and

WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Community Pride Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Brooklyn Community Pride Center and the aforementioned honorees.