

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Independence Residences, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its 25th Anniversary Spring Gala

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Independence Residences, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its 25th Anniversary Spring Gala on Thursday, May 2, 2013, at Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle, New York; and

WHEREAS, For more than 25 years, Independence Residences, Inc. (IRI) has been making a difference to people with developmental disabilities, visual or other impairments and their families; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-five years ago, no existing agency supporting people with disabilities came forward to support people with intellectual disabilities who also had visual impairments; IRI was created to fill that void; and

WHEREAS, Today, after 25 years, IRI meets these needs as well as those of people with developmental disabilities who have other challenges including autism, mood disorders as well as those with multiple disabilities; and

WHEREAS, From its early beginnings, IRI was designed to create opportunities where none existed, including opportunities for adults that are disabled in order to live more rewarding lives as integrated members of society; these opportunities are created in homes designed for their special needs with an extensive circle of support to give them access to work, volunteer, opportunities to learn, grow and dream within their communities; and

WHEREAS, IRI now offers an array of supports to over 1,500 children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan, the Bronx and Long Island; it continues the determination and commitment of the founders and parents who desired to have a safe educative environment for their children; and

WHEREAS, Known as one of the most well respected and productive agencies in New York State, IRI had the honor this year of being chosen as a COMPASS agency of OPWDD; additional residences, day and family support programs are scheduled to open in the near future to meet society's growing needs; and

WHEREAS, Today IRI has varied residential opportunities some of which are staffed 24 hours a day; day opportunities include supportive employment, work at the Independence Cafe and both day habilitation programs that are site based and on-site based; in addition, it offers a wide range of family support services; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, IRI's distinguished record merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Independence Residences, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its 25th Anniversary Spring Gala; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Independence Residences, Inc.