

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the 17th Anniversary of Korean American Civic Empowerment

WHEREAS, In 2013, Korean American Civic Empowerment (KACE) celebrates its 17th year of service to the Asian community in Queens; and

WHEREAS, KACE has been an advocate for voting rights of Asian Americans and works to mobilize, increase accessibility to polls, and educate the community on how to exercise their voting rights; and

WHEREAS, Since 1996, through its year-round voter registration drives, KACE has registered more than 25,000 new Korean voters in New York and New Jersey, and assists more than 1,200 voters annually in a variety of ways; and

WHEREAS, KACE conducts get-out-the-vote campaigns, exit polling and poll monitoring, has a voter hot-line, conducts voter data analysis, redistricting for Asian Americans, and conducted Census 2000 and 2010 with the US Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Formerly known as the Korean American Voters' Council (KAVC), a non-partisan, not-for-profit community-based organization established in 1996, worked to empower the Korean American community by advocating voting rights; and

WHEREAS, Since 2006, the organization has been providing innovative internship and training opportunities to the younger generation including Grassroots Internship and Activist Training Programs which are designed to educate participants about grassroots activism, outreach and organizing, lobbying, using media and social networking; and

WHEREAS, In April 2012, KAVC changed its name to Korean American Civic Empowerment to better reflect its expanded programs which now include encouraging diverse civic engagement and participation among Korean Americans by organizing and supporting them to become responsible and respectable community members; and

WHEREAS, In addition to its voter efforts, KACE advocates for issues at the local, state and federal levels to address community concerns and interests such as the NYC Small Business Survival Act, NJ Dry Cleaning business advocacy and the US HEAP application assistance program; and

WHEREAS, KACE organizes events to mobilize and strengthen the Korean American community's solidarity with Korea, and educates and informs the Korean American community and other ethnic, religious and cultural communities about Korea by inviting elected officials to visit Korea, providing programs or information regarding the issues that Korea faces and increasing awareness of Korea and its culture among the U.S. citizens and community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the 17th Anniversary of Korean American Civic Empowerment and to recognize its years of service to the Korean American community as it seeks to empower, engage and create involved and concerned citizens of the Queens community and beyond; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Korean American Civic Empowerment.