

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2013 as Gun Violence Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2013 as Gun Violence Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, there were 407 homicides by a firearm in New York State representing 59.6% of all murders in the state; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, the mean homicide rate in New York caused by a firearm was 4.95 per 100,000; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, 73,833 people suffered from nonfatal firearms-related injuries in New York; and

WHEREAS, There were 23 armed robberies for every 100,000 New Yorkers in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Gun violence continues to be a devastating crisis throughout the state with an increase of shootings and murders typically occurring in the summer months; and

WHEREAS, Firearm homicide is the leading cause of death for African Americans ages 1-44 nationwide; and

WHEREAS, African Americans, who represent 23 percent of New York City's population, made up 64 percent of the murder victims and 71 percent of the shooting victims in 2012; and

WHEREAS, African American men between the ages of 16 and 37 comprise 40 percent of those murdered in New York City in 2012, and 82 percent of these young men were killed with a firearm, a statistic showing that a disproportionate share of gun violence continues to be experienced by members of our minority community; and

WHEREAS, Guns are the most common weapon used in domestic violence against women and access to firearms increases the risk of homicide by more than 5 times; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels; and

WHEREAS, This resolution, the first of its kind in New York, will inspire a necessary discussion in our community on how we can harness our resources to reduce gun violence to improve our state's programs in prevention, intervention, education and outreach; and

WHEREAS, Increased awareness and coordination among all stakeholders is critical to the prevention of gun violence, the equal protection of our citizens, and to ensure our state's safety for our youth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2013 as Gun Violence Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.