

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Professor Ben Lerner upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship Award

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals who have distinguished themselves through their exemplary careers, accomplishments, and purposeful lives of service to their community and their profession; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Professor Ben Lerner upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship Award; and

WHEREAS, An Associate Professor in English at Brooklyn College, Ben Lerner was one of three Brooklyn College professors who were among 175 winners chosen from nearly 3,000 American and Canadian contenders from the arts, sciences and humanities; he along with the other two faculty members are from Brooklyn College's Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Park Slope, Professor Ben Lerner is working on a second novel, set in Brooklyn and other parts of the City, along with a fourth book of poems; graduating from Brown University with both a B.A. degree in political science and an MFA degree in creative writing respectively, his primary interests are 20th-century and contemporary poetry and poetics; and

WHEREAS, Ben Lerner's first book of poetry, THE LICHTENBERG FIGURES, won the Hayden Carruth Award from Copper Canyon Press, was a Lannan Literary Selection, and was named one of 2004's best books of poetry by LIBRARY JOURNAL; it was published in German translation (Luxbooks) in early 2011, and his second book, ANGLE OF YAW (Copper Canyon, 2006), was a finalist for the National Book Award and the Northern California Book Award, among other honors; and

WHEREAS, Copper Canyon published his third book, MEAN FREE PATH, in early 2010; in 2011, Coffee House Press brought out his first novel, LEAVING THE ATOCHA STATION; it was named one of the best books of the year by THE NEW YORKER, THE GUARDIAN, THE NEW STATESMAN, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL and NEW YORK MAGAZINE, among other publications; he has been a Fulbright Scholar and a Howard Foundation Fellow, and in 2011, he became the first American to win the Preis der Stadt Munster fur Internationale Poesie; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession, dedicating themselves to its enhancement and leading it in new directions, are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Professor Ben Lerner upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Professor Ben Lerner.