

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring April Leong upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by Young Movement, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor April Leong upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by Young Movement, Inc. on Saturday, March 30, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Young Movement is a 501c(3) member-supported action tank providing research, advocacy, and partnerships on socio-economic issues such as financial literacy and employment alternatives for young adults and professionals in New York; incorporated in October of 2011, this organization not only represents its members through research, advocacy, and forming partnerships, but ensures the positive results are long-standing while the unfavorable ones are non-recurrent for the next young generation; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, April Leong started her career in District 79 as an English teacher and family group advisor; as a young mother raised in poverty, she was determined not only to create a better life for her children, but also believed that what was good for her children, was good for everyone else's; and

WHEREAS, During her teaching career at High School Redirection, April Leong was awarded the Allan Houston "My Teacher is My Hero Award"; while at the School, she was responsible for creating many innovative programs in youth development and community service; and

WHEREAS, April Leong credits her experience as a Seek student in Baruch College for teaching her valuable lessons of being an underdog that was destined to win; her support system at Baruch equipped her with the necessary foundation that enabled her to not just overcome her trials and tribulations, but also helped to refine and define who she was and what she wanted to become; and

WHEREAS, April Leong learned invaluable leadership skills while she was affiliated with the Student Government, Security Board of Directors, Day Care Board of Directors, Student Affairs Board of Directors, and the Retrenchment Committee; she was an integral member of the team who brought the nationally recognized Alternative High School Initiative, Diploma Plus to New York City; and

WHEREAS, While an assistant principal, April Leong successfully transformed two underperforming suspension sites and received awards of recognition for outstanding leadership from her staff, principal and superintendent; having earned a Bachelor's degree from Baruch, Master's Degrees from both the College of St. Rose and Brooklyn College, she conceived, developed and opened her own alternative high school and is now the founding principal of Liberation Diploma Plus High School, where she continues to be a strong student advocate, educator, family and community supporter, and fearless leader; and

WHEREAS, In addition, April Leong also completed her Cahn fellowship from Teacher's College and is a proud Cahn Alumna; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, April Leong'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 honor April Leong upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by Young Movement, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to April Leong.