

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Juanita E. Watkins, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Juanita E. Watkins of Queens, New York, died on January 20, 2013, at the age of 78; and

WHEREAS, A former councilwoman, Juanita E. Watkins took her seat in the New York City Council in 1982; the 31st Council District has the largest land mass of all the council districts in New York City, covering the community of Arverne, Bayswater, Edgemere, Far Rockaway, JFK Airport, Laurelton, Rosedale, Springfield Gardens, and parts of Cambria Heights and South Ozone Park; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Juanita E. Watkins was a strong advocate for her community on a number of fronts; she fought for constituents' rights in the battles over mega stores, homeless shelters, and commuter van services; and

WHEREAS, The new JFK Sheraton Hotel is the result of her five-year fight to close the former Kennedy Inn, a hotel converted into a homeless shelter, located in the middle of a residential community of single family homes; and

WHEREAS, As a Councilwoman, Juanita E. Watkins made advocacy for senior citizens one of her top priorities, sponsoring Senior Empowerment Conferences for seniors within her district; and

WHEREAS, Juanita E. Watkins played a major role in having New York City declared a disaster area eligible for Federal funding after the severe flooding that took place in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Juanita E. Watkins distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, Juanita E. Watkins' commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Juanita E. Watkins leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Juanita E. Watkins, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Juanita E. Watkins.