

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Reverend Robert Rodriguez upon the occasion of being appointed the first Puerto Rican American minister of the Fort Washington Collegiate Church in October 2013

WHEREAS, The spiritual guidance and nurturing of the citizens of the State of New York is of great importance to the vitality and well-being of our communities; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those men and women of religious commitment who accept the responsibility of moral leadership and render the wisdom of human understanding; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Reverend Robert Rodriguez upon the occasion of being appointed the first Puerto Rican American minister of the Fort Washington Collegiate Church; he will be installed as its Senior Minister in October 2013; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Robert Rodriguez, a native of the Washington Heights area, has dedicated his life of ministry to improving the social welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Robert Rodriguez first worked with the Fort Washington Collegiate Church in 1997 when he served as Director of Christian Education; in that capacity, he worked diligently and successfully to revive the church's membership by bridging cultural gaps among Spanish-speaking worshippers; and

WHEREAS, Although he left the parish in 2003, Reverend Robert Rodriguez has been a part of the ministry for the past 20 years, serving various congregations with his unique passion, love and appreciation for education, faith, and the combination of both; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Robert Rodriguez received a Master of Divinity from Drew Theological Seminary, and holds two graduate degrees in the field of Education; and

WHEREAS, Committed to the public good, Reverend Robert Rodriguez worked in education, including serving as an Assistant Superintendent in Peekskill, before entering the ministry full time; and

WHEREAS, Upon his installation as Senior Minister, Reverend Robert Rodriguez looks forward to working with the church and members of the community to address social issues, such as affordable housing, mental illness and gun violence, that impact the community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Reverend Robert Rodriguez upon the occasion of being appointed the first Puerto Rican American minister of the Fort Washington Collegiate Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Robert Rodriguez.