

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Marilyn Gelber upon the occasion of her retirement as President of the Brooklyn Community Foundation after many years of distinguished service, in June 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Marilyn Gelber upon the occasion of her retirement as President of the Brooklyn Community Foundation after many years of distinguished service; she will be stepping down from her post at the end of June; and

WHEREAS, The founder as well as the president of the Brooklyn Community Foundation, Marilyn Gelber has rendered faithful, conscientious and invaluable service on behalf of the people of Brooklyn, New York, not only in this capacity, but throughout her 15 year career in the philanthropic community and 28 year career before that in the public sector, earning the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues and all who worked with her; and

WHEREAS, In the nearly four years of Marilyn Gelber's leadership of the Brooklyn Community Foundation, she has created a potent legacy, effectively implementing big ideas in ways that benefit every member of the community; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Gelber began her career in philanthropy in 1998 as the director of the newly-formed Independence Community Foundation, after three decades in the public sector as a neighborhood planner, an administrator at Brooklyn Borough Hall, and the commissioner of New York City's Department of Environmental Protection; and

WHEREAS, Over the next decade, the Independence Community Foundation provided crucial support to nonprofit organizations operating in the New York-New Jersey Metro area; it became one of the area's largest private community-focused funders, with an emphasis on supporting start-up organizations in targeted neighborhoods as well as investing in key anchor institutions; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, Marilyn Gelber oversaw the foundation's transition into the first and only community foundation in Brooklyn, to encourage philanthropic giving, increase local grantmaking, and build civic engagement; in less than four years, the Brooklyn Community Foundation granted significant funds to continue investing in the most effective and innovative nonprofits serving Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Gelber's notable achievements during her tenure with the Brooklyn Community Foundation include: co-creating the Brooklyn Recovery Fund after Superstorm Sandy as a high-impact channel for local disaster relief; support for Brooklyn Greens, which does environmental work in three inner-city neighborhoods; the Central Brooklyn STEM Initiative, in which graduate engineering students from NYU-Poly mentor teachers and students in Central Brooklyn to help bring robotics into the classroom; and the School District 16 initiatives, which seeks to improve student performance across the district; and

WHEREAS, From educational attainment to care for the most vulnerable residents, environmental sustainability to workforce development, the impact of Marilyn Gelber's service to Brooklyn, New York, has been immeasurable; and

WHEREAS, Due to Marilyn Gelber's dedicated service and guidance, the Brooklyn Community Foundation is poised to be a model public institution for advancing local philanthropy giving, and investing in bold new projects; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individ-

uals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Marilyn Gelber upon the occasion of her retirement as President of the Brooklyn Community Foundation after many years of distinguished service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Marilyn Gelber.