

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Prospect Park Carousel

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to support the preservation and commemoration of historical landmarks which express and preserve the social and cultural origins of this great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Prospect Park Carousel, to be celebrated at the Prospect Park Anniversary Ball on Saturday, November 10, 2012; and

WHEREAS, A series of carousels has attracted visitors to Prospect Park since 1874; and

WHEREAS, The first carousel was located in the area known today as the Rose Garden; in 1885 it was moved to the picnic area on the west side of the Long Meadow; and

WHEREAS, The original carousel and its successor burned down and in 1952 the current incarnation, sporting horses by master carver Charles Carmel, was moved from Coney Island to its present spot near the Willink Entrance; and

WHEREAS, Of the 6,000 carousels constructed in the United States during the golden age of carnivals in the early part of the 20th century, only 200 remain intact; the Prospect Park Carousel is one of them; and

WHEREAS, The Prospect Park Carousel's artfully crafted animals were carved in 1912 by Charles Carmel, who trained in Coney Island under the most renowned carousel artists of the time; and

WHEREAS, With a shop located on Ocean Parkway near the Prospect Park Horse Stables, Charles Carmel's frequent observance of the local horses contributed to the lifelike quality of his artwork; and

WHEREAS, Charles Carmel's imaginative rendering of a running horse's spirited expression and flowing mane, accompanied by flamboyant tassels and feathers, became the standard for carousel design; and

WHEREAS, One of only twelve remaining Charles Carmel designs, the Carousel was moved from its original Coney Island home to its current location in 1952; and

WHEREAS, The Prospect Park Carousel was closed in 1983, due to mechanical problems and severe deterioration; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, the Prospect Park Alliance was founded with the goal of restoring and preserving the Park and all its features; as its first project, the Alliance raised funds for the renovation of the Carousel; and

WHEREAS, The original radiance of the Carousel's colors was restored by nationally known carousel artist and conservator Will Morton VIII; broken parts were fixed, new parts were carved, and 20 layers of paint were removed to reveal the original colors; and

WHEREAS, In addition, two historic paintings were uncovered on the Wurlitzer Band Organ, which was also repaired; sixty renderings of Brooklyn and Prospect Park were added, done by Morton and based on old photographs and a mermaid statue found in Coney Island; and

WHEREAS, Ornamented with brass and 1,000 lights, the Prospect Park Carousel returned to its former glory in October of 1990; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, the Carousel received a new roof and other repairs with funds raised by the Alliance through the 2000 Carousel Ball; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the Prospect Park Carousel's rich history and enduring contribution to the heritage of the State of New York, it

is the intent of this Legislative Body to join in the celebration of its

100th Anniversary, recognizing the unique significance which its history plays in the progression of our State and Nation's evolution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Prospect Park Carousel; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Prospect Park Alliance.