

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring PortSide NewYork upon the occasion of receiving the White House "Champions of Change" award, on April 24, 2013

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, It is, furthermore, the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize the caring concern and generous acts of those organizations who step outside the bounds of their ordinary work to extend a helping hand to their neighbors and community in times of crisis; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor PortSide NewYork upon the occasion of receiving the White House "Champions of Change" award, which was presented at a White House ceremony, on Wednesday, April 24, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The "Champions of Change," award honors everyday Americans doing extraordinary things in their communities to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS, PortSide NewYork, a nonprofit in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn, New York, won this esteemed award in recognition of their outstanding relief and recovery work during Hurricane Sandy; and

WHEREAS, PortSide NewYork is housed in the MARY A. WHALEN, an oil tanker on the National Register of Historic Places, and the only oil tanker in the world that serves as a center for education, cultural events, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, After protecting the MARY A. WHALEN during Hurricane Sandy, PortSide NewYork, led by Director Carolina Salguero, teamed up with Realty Collective and Gallery Brooklyn to create the Sandy recovery center for the Red Hook community; and

WHEREAS, PortSide NewYork created an aid station that evolved to provide services in response to emerging needs, provided computer equipment to enable people to apply to FEMA, organized the work of an electrician who donated his services for free, and set up free legal clinics and a small business recovery center; and

WHEREAS, In being selected for this prestigious award, PortSide NewYork exemplifies the ideals of compassion, care, and concern for others characteristic of this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor PortSide NewYork upon the occasion of receiving the White House "Champions of Change" award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Carolina Salguero, Director, PortSide NewYork.