

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Police Reform Organizing Project upon the occasion of hosting its Second Annual Citizen of the City Awards Benefit, on June 6, 2013, and paying tribute to its outstanding honorees

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Police Reform Organizing Project upon the occasion of hosting its Second Annual Citizen of the City Awards Benefit, to be held on Thursday, June 6, 2013, at the historic Riverside Church in Harlem, New York; and

WHEREAS, Sponsored by The Campaign to End the New Jim Crow, this special event salutes four exemplary individuals for their efforts of in-depth magnitude; and

WHEREAS, The Police Reform Organizing Project (PROP) is a city-wide advocacy and organizing coalition comprised of New Yorkers of diverse ethnicities, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and occupations, committed to transforming the culture within the NYPD by advocating for the creation of policies and practices that are just, ethical, and free from bias and discrimination, the establishing of mechanisms that ensure police accountability to the community, and the implementation of measures that not only reduce crime, but strengthen communities; and

WHEREAS, The Citizen of the City Awards recipients are among New York City's leading social justice advocates working to create a safer, more livable, and more inclusive city for the benefit of all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Imam Al-Hajj Talib Abdur-Rashid has been the religious and spiritual leader of The Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood in Harlem since 1989; he is also the leader of the Islamic Leadership Council of Metropolitan New York and Vice President of the Muslim Alliance of North America; and

WHEREAS, Chi Adanna Mgbako is an Associate Clinical Professor at Fordham Law School, and a founding director of the International Human Rights Clinic at the Leitner Center for International Human Rights; an author, she has written on the growth of the sex workers rights movement in Africa, and is also co-producing a film on the feminization of HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Alex S. Vitale is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Brooklyn College where he teaches criminology, the sociology of law and political sociology; he has written extensively on policing issues for both professional journals and daily newspapers, and has been quoted in numerous media outlets throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Pat Bumgardner is the Senior Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of New York, and the Executive Director of MCC's Global Justice Institute; she is also the founder of both the Sylvia Rivera Memorial Food Pantry, and Sylvia's Place, an emergency shelter and drop-in site for the homeless; 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 commend the Police Reform Organizing Project upon the occasion of host-

ing its Second Annual Citizen of the City Awards Benefit, and to pay tribute to its outstanding honorees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Police Reform Organizing Project and the aforementioned honorees.