

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Marilyn Gelber upon the occasion of being honored in conjunction with Women's History Month 2014 in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those women of achievement within the Empire State who have made strong contributions to their communities and who inspire others through their model citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Marilyn Gelber upon the occasion of being honored in conjunction with Women's History Month 2014 in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made invaluable contributions to the growth and strength of New York State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the State of New York officially sets aside time to recognize the achievements and lives of such exemplary women, representatives of the wide-ranging and vital roles women have played in the historic development of this great Empire State and its communities; the theme of this year's commemoration is "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment"; and

WHEREAS, Philanthropic and civic leader Marilyn Gelber has been a potent force for improving the quality of life in New York City's neighborhoods for nearly four decades; throughout her illustrious and varied career, she has consistently epitomized the values of character, courage, and commitment in her unwavering service to her peers, colleagues, and fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Gelber is the creator and President of the Brooklyn Community Foundation, a vital charitable organization that provides unique opportunities for philanthropists to support initiatives addressing the complex challenges of Brooklyn, New York's 70 neighborhoods and 2.5 million people; and

WHEREAS, A life-long New Yorker, Marilyn Gelber has a demonstrated commitment to improving the quality of life in her native city; prior to creating the Brooklyn Community Foundation, she was the founding Executive Director of the Independence Community Bank Foundation, Brooklyn's largest private charitable foundation, which invested in a broad range of community and economic development, educational and environmental initiatives throughout the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Gelber also served her fellow New Yorkers in the public sector for 28 years as an urban planner and administrator; she was the first woman Commissioner of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, was Chief of Staff to former Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden, and was Director of Neighborhood Strategy Planning for the New York City Department of City Planning; and

WHEREAS, The comprehensive scope of Marilyn Gelber's vision for a sparkling, vibrant and dynamic city also led to her roles as the New York City Comptroller's appointee to the New York City Procurement Policy Board, Mayoral appointee to the New York City Water Board, and holder of the Brooklyn seat on the New York City Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Gelber has received numerous accolades for her work; she was presented with an honorary doctorate from St. Joseph's College, and was awarded the President's Medal by Brooklyn College; she also received the Ruth Moskowitz award from the Kings County Supreme Court, and was recognized with the Freedom Star award by the Brooklyn branch of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her service to her community and the State of New York, Marilyn Gelber has stood constant in dignity,

good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for Marilyn Gelber and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals 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 commend Marilyn Gelber upon the occasion of being honored in conjunction with Women's History Month in the State of New York; and be it further

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