

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Dr. Esmeralda Simmons 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 Dr. Esmeralda Simmons 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, Attorney Dr. Esmeralda Simmons is a long-time community empowerment advocate; 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, Dr. Esmeralda Simmons is the founder and Executive Director of the Center for Law and Social Justice in Brooklyn, New York; a community-based legal advocacy and research organization housed at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York; and

WHEREAS, The first Deputy Commissioner for Human Rights for the State of New York, Dr. Esmeralda Simmons has demonstrated commitment to the cause of racial justice, particularly in the areas of quality public education for students of color, voting rights, and cultural rights; as a leader and advocate she is widely respected for her dedication to working collaboratively, skillfully building coalitions and engaging others in the pursuit of social justice; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Esmeralda Simmons' impressive legal career includes service as a Civil Rights Attorney for the United States Department of Education, work as a New York State Assistant Attorney General, and a New York City Assistant Corporation Counsel, as well as service as a law clerk to a federal judge; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Esmeralda Simmons is also a woman of faith; her desire for a better quality of life for all is fueled by her belief in peace, grounding in African culture, the vision of her ancestors, and respect for life and cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, This passionate advocate also gives generously of her time to community organizations; she serves on the boards of the Applied Research Center, the Fund for Social Change, and the Vallecitos Mountain Refuge, Inc., and also serves as a selection committee member for several fellowships and grants for activists, parents, and youth; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her service to her community, the State of New York, and the nation, Dr. Esmeralda Simmons 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 Dr. Esmeralda Simmons and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; 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 commend Dr. Esmeralda Simmons 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 Dr. Esmeralda Simmons.