LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust

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 enhanced by the concerned and dedicated efforts of organizations and individuals who generously contribute to the beautification of the community and well-being of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust; and

WHEREAS, The Land Trust Alliance is a national organization founded 25 years ago to save the places people love by strengthening land conservation in America; and

WHEREAS, The national conservation community is now 1.5 million people strong who work to permanently save our most valued natural resource across America; and

WHEREAS, The many millions of acres saved are made up of farms, historic sites, mountains, forests, rivers, wetlands and urban gardens; while the Alliance set out to save land, in the end they build community, preserve beauty and instill hope; and

WHEREAS, New York State has 97 land trusts with 170,000 acres owned and more than 800,000 acres conserved by other means such as easements for a total of almost 1,000,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, The Alliance in New York has proactively and effectively steered state Environmental Protection Funds (EPF) to support community gardens in Brooklyn and Queens, and other metropolitan areas around the state including Buffalo, Albany and Kingston; and

WHEREAS, Through the Conservation Partnership Program /EPF grants and targeted technical assistance, the Alliance is working to increase the quality, and ensure the permanence of community open space conservation across the State; the Land Trust Alliance administers the Conservation Partnership program in coordination with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; and

WHEREAS, The Brooklyn Queens Land Trust, an urban community-based organization, stands out as the owner of 32 community gardens spread out over 16 different neighborhoods; 26 gardens in the borough of Brooklyn and six in Queens; and

WHEREAS, Under the able direction of Demetrice Mills, President of the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust, the organization engaged in a two-year effort and extensive fundraising to be able to add another garden; and

WHEREAS, After the deed was signed in December of 2013, the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust BQLT is now the proud owner of 33 community gardens which encompass 3.5 acres of open space; and

WHEREAS, The Brooklyn Queens Land Trust boasts 600 board members, gardeners and supporters who value and enjoy their small sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents a unique opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to the Friends of the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations and individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

smitted to Demetrice Mills, President, Brooklyn Queens Land Trust.