

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Celebrate Israel Parade

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and observe events which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to join the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Celebrate Israel Parade; and

WHEREAS, For 50 years, the Celebrate Israel Parade has provided a special opportunity to pay tribute to the rich history and culture of the State of Israel and to affirm the enduring bond between our great nations; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious Parade features hundreds of thousands of spectators in addition to tens of thousands of costumed participants marching up New York City's Fifth Avenue; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York has been enriched by millions of Jewish men and women since they first arrived in New Amsterdam in 1654; whether they were born in New York or arrived after fleeing persecution, pogroms or the horrors of the Holocaust, they have shaped our national character with their wisdom and heritage; and

WHEREAS, Their unwavering faith, commitment to family and community, tradition of service to others, and their dedication to learning, the arts and social justice have made extraordinary contributions to every sector of our society; and

WHEREAS, Israel and New York State are linked and share many inextricable attributes; Israel may be the 100th smallest country in the world, but, like New York, its society is extremely diverse, with more than 60 different cultures; and

WHEREAS, It is also the largest immigrant-absorbing nation on earth; immigrants flock to Israel and to New York in search of democracy, religious freedom, and greater economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, The Celebrate Israel Parade offers a great opportunity to extol this inspiring and unifying narrative; the United States would not be the country nor would New York be the State it is without the achievements and profound contributions of Jewish Americans and Israelis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Celebrate Israel Parade; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.