

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2014 as Gun Violence Awareness Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2014 as Gun Violence Awareness Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, According to the Department of Criminal Justice Services, in 2013, there were 335 homicides by a firearm in New York City representing 52% of all murders in the state; and

WHEREAS, Gun violence continues to be a devastating crisis throughout the state with an increase of shootings and murders typically occurring in the summer months; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control reports gun deaths in urban areas are much more likely to be homicides, while suicide is far and away the dominant form of gun death in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Caucasian Americans are far more likely to shoot themselves, and African Americans are far more likely to be shot by someone else; and

WHEREAS, According to the New York Police Department, African Americans, who represent 23% of New York City's population, made up 63.8% of the murder victims and 73.9% of the shooting victims from January to June 2013; and

WHEREAS, African American men between the ages of 16 and 37 comprise 40% of those murdered in New York City in 2012, and 86% of these young men were killed with a firearm, a statistic showing that a disproportionate share of gun violence continues to be experienced by members of our minority community; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Criminal Justice Services affirms in 2012, firearms accounted for 31.1% of domestic violence incidents in the State of New York, and 27.5% of domestic violence incidents in New York City; and

WHEREAS, The damage caused by gun violence is not limited to gender, race, sexual orientation or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious issue including prevention, intervention, education and outreach; and

WHEREAS, Increased awareness and coordination among all stakeholders is critical to the prevention of gun violence, the equal protection of our citizens, and to ensure our state's safety for our youth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2014 as Gun Violence Awareness Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.