LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Divinah Bailey upon the occasion of her retirement

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Divinah Bailey upon the occasion of her retirement, to be celebrated on Thursday, April 4, 2013, in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Divinah "Dee" Bailey is a native of the Bedford Stuyvesant community in Brooklyn, New York; under the mentorship of her late father, Dee was empowered with the ability to assess and address the needs of her community; through the years, she has distinguished herself as a dedicated fighter for human rights, as it relates to the health and welfare within the African American community; and

WHEREAS, Dee Bailey is most noted for her advocacy work, which includes being a District 65 United Auto Workers (UAW) representative for over 20 years along with helping to inspire the New York City Council to create the "Communities of Color HIV/AIDS Faith Initiative"; this brought a significant amount in new HIV/AIDS funds to churches, community-based organizations and community service agencies; and

WHEREAS, As the former National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS Executive Director of New York City Operations, Dee Bailey had the responsibility of informing, coordinating and organizing the volunteer efforts of the indigenous black leadership in their local communities and across the nation to meet the challenge of fighting AIDS; as founder of Watchful Eye, she continues to work tirelessly in educating leaders around the issues of HIV/AIDS as it relates to communities of color; and

WHEREAS, Dee Bailey currently serves as: Member of the Health and Social Services Committee for NYC Community Planning Board No. 3, founding Chair of the Brooklyn United Community Coalition (BUCC), member of the Congressional Health Advisory Committee, member of the 54th Assembly District Healthcare Policy Team, chair of the Brooklyn Linkage to Care Coalition Communications Committee (BLCC), member of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, Dee Bailey becomes extremely passionate when she extols the importance of HIV/AIDS education and the need to take the first step by "Getting Tested" and "Knowing Your Status"; as guest ringmaster at the UniverSoul Circus, the first African American circus of its kind, she has delivered HIV/AIDS prevention messages to audiences both young and old in cities where the circus performs; and

WHEREAS, Dee Bailey's passion has moved her towards developing new and innovative partnerships and initiatives such as the Red Ribbon Revitalization Campaign; the campaign is an ongoing initiative to encourage HIV testing, by having banners that hang from flag poles, medical centers and colleges in Brooklyn areas hardest hit by HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Dee Bailey has been the recipient of numerous awards for her tireless work in the fight against HIV/AIDS; she has appeared on several radio and television networks and has interviewed with many other media personalities; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Dee Bailey is a proud mother and grandmother who is considered to be a leader, confidant, mentor, friend, and sister to all who have the pleasure of her acquaintance; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure, Dee Bailey earned the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Divinah Bailey upon the occasion of her retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Divinah "Dee" Bailey.