

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Raphael Frieder upon the occasion of celebrating his 25th Anniversary as Cantor at Temple Israel of Great Neck on June 5, 2016

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to providing music for the spiritual fulfillment of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves through their unrelenting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Raphael Frieder upon the occasion of celebrating his 25th Anniversary as Cantor at Temple Israel of Great Neck to be celebrated at an evening concert and dinner reception held in his honor on Sunday, June 5, 2016, in Great Neck, New York; and

WHEREAS, A native of Netanya, Israel, Raphael Frieder studied music, voice, conducting, opera, and piano, as well as Chazzanut and trope as a young man; he also proudly served his country as a paratrooper with the Israeli Self Defense Force for three years; and

WHEREAS, Raphael Frieder's first position as Chazzan was in London, England, where he continued his voice studies with celebrated teacher Vera Rozsa; he performed across much of Europe and with the New Israeli Opera, as well as with all of Israeli's major orchestras under numerous prominent conductors; and

WHEREAS, An accomplished musical artist, Raphael Frieder became the first person to sing in Hebrew at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris while performing with the Krakow Symphony; he also had the privilege of being selected by Leonard Bernstein to sing the world premiere of his work, "Arias and Barcarolles"; and

WHEREAS, Since arriving at Temple Israel of Great Neck a quarter century ago, Raphael Frieder has enriched the entire religious community with his presence and virtuosity at services as Cantor; his singing and direction have also enhanced the beauty of countless weddings, and brought dignity and solace to mourners when officiating at funerals; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious tenure, Cantor Raphael Frieder has expertly guided and overseen the training of approximately 1,400 B'nai Mitzvah students, as well as a large number of lay participants who have learned to lead services under his remarkable tutelage; and

WHEREAS, Today, this esteemed artist and musical leader continues to challenge both himself and his students to "do a little more"; his innovations have included the Niggun Circle, the tuneful N'ranenah, Kabbalat Shabbat Service, the T'fila Enrichment Program, Shabbat Shira programs, as well as annual courses leading up to Shabbatot Kol Ishah, Ha Gever, and Koleinu; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Raphael Frieder has made recordings of Chazzanut and Jewish music, appeared on television programs, and played the role of the Cantor in the movie "Keeping the Faith" starring Ben Stiller and Ed Norton; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his service to the Temple Israel community, a period of constructive involvement, Cantor Raphael Frieder has stood constant in dignity, wisdom, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the spiritual well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have

earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great

Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Raphael Frieder upon the occasion of celebrating his 25th Anniversary as Cantor at Temple Israel of Great Neck; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Raphael Frieder.