

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Governors Island Alliance upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Gala, and paying tribute to this year's honorees on June 18, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the practice 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 that generously contribute to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Governors Island Alliance upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Gala, and paying tribute to this year's honorees, to be celebrated at its Picnic in the Clouds on the 64th Floor at One World Trade Center, on Thursday, June 18, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Each year, this esteemed organization is privileged to recognize outstanding members of the community who have made significant contributions to the New York City community; this year's distinguished honorees include: EY, an outstanding friend and supporter of the Governors Island Alliance for many years; Jay Walder, CEO of Motivate, the global bike sharing company that operates Citi Bike and many others around the world; and New York City Councilwoman, Margaret Chin, who represents the many downtown Manhattan communities and Governors Island, and is a great friend to the Governors Island Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Governors Island, a 172 acre island in the heart of New York Harbor, is only 800 yards from Lower Manhattan, and even closer to Brooklyn; it is a work unto itself, unique and full of promise; and

WHEREAS, For almost two centuries, Governors Island was a military base home to the United States Army and later the United States Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, the federal government sold 150 acres of Governors Island to the people of New York, with the Island's governance and funding jointly shared by the City of New York and State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The remaining 22 acres of Governors Island was declared the Governors Island National Monument which is overseen by the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, Today, the City of New York is responsible for Governors Island, and subsequently, created the Trust for Governors Island, the organization charged with the operations, planning and redevelopment of 150 acres of the Island; and

WHEREAS, The Trust for Governors Island is transforming Governors Island into a destination with great public open space, educational, not-for-profit, and commercial facilities; in 2014, 30 new acres of park and public spaces opened to the public for the first time; and

WHEREAS, The Trust broke ground on The Hills, the crowning feature of the new park; made of recycled construction and fill materials, The Hills will rise 25-80 feet above the Island, and the summit of the tallest Hill will provide visitors with a 360-degree panorama of the Statue of Liberty, New York Harbor, and the Lower Manhattan skyline; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the completion of the new park spaces and construction of The Hills, the Trust for Governors Island is proceeding with an ambitious infrastructure program to ready the Island for expanded tenancy and activity; and

WHEREAS, The Trust for Governors Island has also identified RFP finalists for tenancy in Governors Island's historic buildings, which will help achieve the goal of making the Island an extraordinary public resource with a vibrant mix of uses and activities; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organiza-

tions and individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Governors Island Alliance upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Gala, and paying tribute to this year's honorees on June 18, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the aforementioned honorees, and the Governors Island Alliance.