

BY: Senator MONTGOMERY

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of The Fortune Society on April 17, 2017

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those organizations within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary organizations it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of The Fortune Society to be celebrated at its Spring Benefit, Celebrating the Power of Theater and Media to Transform Lives, on Monday, April 17, 2017, at City Winery, New York, New York; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1967, The Fortune Society's vision is to foster a world where all who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated will thrive as positive, contributing members of society through its holistic, one-stop model of service provision; and

WHEREAS, With its continuum of care informed and implemented by professionals with cultural backgrounds and life experiences similar to those of its clients, The Fortune Society serves approximately 6,000 individuals annually via three New York City locations: a service center in Long Island City, Queens, and both the Fortune Academy and Castle Gardens in West Harlem; and

WHEREAS, The Fortune Society's Housing Program empowers homeless, formerly incarcerated individuals and their families to build better futures through stable and affordable housing; by providing low-threshold access to supportive emergency, phased-permanent and permanent housing, its Housing Program meets both the immediate and long-term needs of its clients; and

WHEREAS, Participating clients are able to take the first steps on their journeys towards becoming positive, self-sufficient members of society with the full support of The Fortune Society's comprehensive reentry service offering and culturally competent staff; and

WHEREAS, The Fortune Society's Employment Services program is designed to equip formerly incarcerated jobseekers with the skills necessary to obtain employment and thrive in the workplace; the program offers a variety of services to help motivated jobseekers begin their careers and seek professional advancement; and

WHEREAS, In addition, its two-week job readiness workshop teaches clients how to network, excel in interviews, problem-solve, answer

difficult conviction questions, and create a professional resume and cover letter; individuals completing the work-shop receive career counseling, job placement assistance, and support with job retention; and

WHEREAS, The Fortune Society also offers skills training which provides industry recognized certifications in both the culinary arts and green construction arenas; clients who complete the training receive job placement and career advancement services; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, The Fortune Society launched the David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy (DRCPP) in honor of its founder, a tireless advocate for the rights and fair treatment of people with criminal records; and

WHEREAS, While The Fortune Society has always engaged in advocacy and community education, DRCPP resourced and ramped up its policy development, advocacy, technical assistance, training, and community education efforts; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished 50 year history, The Fortune Society has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of The Fortune Society is in direct correlation to the efforts of its staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of The Fortune Society on April 17, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Fortune Society.