

BY: Senator BRESLIN

HONORING the New Sanctuary for Immigrants of the Capital Region upon the occasion of its designation as a recipient of the Pro Bono Award by The Legal Project on November 4, 2016

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

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals and 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 honor the New Sanctuary for Immigrants of the Capital Region upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Pro Bono Award by The Legal Project to be celebrated with a Luncheon on Friday, November 4, 2016, at The Century House, Latham, New York; and

WHEREAS, New Sanctuary for Immigrants (NSI), a faith-based program at Our Lady of the Americas Shrine Church in Albany, New York, has helped hundreds of families navigate the nuances of immigration laws and the challenges of living in a new country; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization assists immigrants with food, clothing, school registration, translation services, health care and understanding their rights as employees; in addition, volunteers visit immigrants being held in jails, refer them to free legal counsel and host workshops, interfaith prayer vigils and demonstrations to raise awareness of their struggles; and

WHEREAS, An all-volunteer, grass-roots, social justice group serving all immigrants, NSI also helps with practical support such as groceries, clothing, school registration, translation services, health care, and emotional support; and

WHEREAS, NSI assists immigrant workers whose rights are violated by their employers or landlords and visit immigrants being held by the Department of Homeland Security at the Albany County Jail and other jails throughout the Capital Region; the organization also offers public education programs and conducts important advocacy on issues facing the immigrant community; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, NSI successfully lobbied the Albany Common Council to pass the Immigrant Rights Resolution; they support Comprehensive Immigration Reform and maintaining unity among immigrant families as well as providing education to both federal and state officials to urge compassionate reform; and

WHEREAS, NSI has been instrumental in assisting immigrant clients of The Legal Project with legal consultations as well as with the myriad of issues they face, trying to settle into life in the Capital Region; 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 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 honor the New Sanctuary for Immigrants of the Capital Region upon the occasion of its designation as a recipient of the Pro Bono Award by The Legal Project on November 4, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New Sanctuary for Immigrants of the Capital Region.