

BY: Senator ADDABBO

COMMEMORATING the 375th Anniversary of Maspeth, Queens, to be celebrated on March 28, 2017

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the distinguished histories of the communities which comprise the noble body of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 375th Anniversary of Maspeth, Queens, to be celebrated on March 28, 2017; and

WHEREAS, The original deed for Maspeth, Queens was issued by the colony of New Netherlands 375 years ago in 1642 - a time when the area was home to the Mespeatches tribe of Native Americans, from whom the community takes its name; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the first formal colonization of Maspeth that began in 1642 with the issuance of the Newtown Patent, which granted more than 13,000 acres of land to those wishing to settle and develop the area, Dutch and English colonists began living along the Newtown Creek between 1621 and 1638; and

WHEREAS, The village of Maspeth was initially settled by 28 English men and women, primarily of the Quaker religion; their new community served as the center of the water trade with New Amsterdam and as the center for the milling industry, including the tide mills built along Newtown Creek, Maspeth Creek and their tributaries, to grind grain into flour; and

WHEREAS, The first storekeepers to serve the Maspeth community were Nathaniel Hazard and Francis T. White, who opened their food and clothing stores at the Maspeth Town Dock during the 1700s; and

WHEREAS, With its colonial streets paved with oyster shells, tremendous growth and development occurred in Maspeth following the Revolutionary War, with early businesses including: a glue factory, rope works, animal carbon plant, an oil cloth factory, a shirt factory, a tin factory, dairies, hardware and plumbing stores, and businesses connected to the famed Mount Olivet Cemetery, such as a metal casket company; and

WHEREAS, Mount Olivet Cemetery, founded in 1850, is a famed garden cemetery which sits on the highest land in Maspeth and offers extraordinary views of Manhattan, is the last resting place for 16 victims of the devastating Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire as well as Jack "Legs" Diamond, and was once a very popular weekend walking destination for Manhattan families in the 19th Century; and

WHEREAS, The community of Maspeth is and has been home to a variety of historic buildings, art pieces, and organizations, including: the

Garlinger Triangle WWII monument, Maspeth Town Hall, Maspeth Movie Theater, Haflinger House, Queens County Hotel, Polish-American National Hall, St. Saviour's Church, the Clinton Diner, Transfiguration Church and its Lithuanian Wayside Cross Shrine, and Clinton Hall, the site where Governor Dewitt Clinton planned the creation of the Erie Canal; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of its 375 years, the community of Maspeth has continued to grow and thrive; it is an integral part of the Borough of Queens and is an exceptional, close-knit neighborhood where residents are able to happily live, work, do business and raise their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 375th Anniversary of Maspeth, Queens; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Thomas Rudzewick of Maspeth Federal Savings Banks, and other community leaders who are celebrating this extraordinary milestone in the life and history of Maspeth, Queens.