

BY: Senator ADDABBO

HONORING Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Catholic Academy upon the creation of its First Student Bill of Rights

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and celebrate those institutions of learning that attempt to instill admirable human values in their students while simultaneously providing excellent academic services that enable young people to succeed; and

WHEREAS, The Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Catholic Academy in Ozone Park, Queens, recently undertook an extraordinary project in concert with the young men and women enrolled in the school and encouraged the pupils to create a unique and admirable Student Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, The Student Bill of Rights consists of an introduction and three distinct Articles delineating Respect for Others, Respect for Our School, and Respect for Myself; and

WHEREAS, In a March, 2017 ceremony, the students at Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Catholic Academy signed the Student Bill of Rights they had created and pledged to adhere to its highly commendable principles of behavior; and

WHEREAS, While seeking to advance and celebrate the growth of student respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the school they attend, the creation of the Student Bill of Rights also provided an opportunity for these pupils to learn first-hand about civics and the work that goes into creating guidelines for the operation of a civil society; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of the Bill of Rights of the United States of America also required that a group of dedicated parties come together to debate, negotiate and ultimately agree upon a code of conduct and guiding principles to uphold the best interests and freedoms of all people in the nation; and

WHEREAS, The Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Catholic Academy Student Bill of Rights addresses such issues as: the importance of listening and being aware of the feelings and thoughts of others; understanding that all students have a right to be respected, acknowledged, and treated fairly; ensuring that recess time at the school provides a safe environment for students in both a physical and spiritual sense; and preserving the integrity of school equipment, classrooms, and the school building itself; and

WHEREAS, The students, faculty, administrators and other members of the Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Catholic Academy community are to be commended for their support and involvement in the development of the school's first Student Bill of Rights; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize and honor the authors and creators of the Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Catholic Academy Student Bill of Rights; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Principal Philip Heide, and the student body of Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Catholic Academy.