

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING the Brooklyn Botanical Garden upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Sakura Matsuri Festival

WHEREAS, For 36 years the Brooklyn Botanical Garden has been celebrating traditional and contemporary Japanese culture with their Sakura Matsuri Festival, also known as the Cherry Blossom Festival; and

WHEREAS, This popular festival brings over 60 events and performances together for two days to celebrate spring and the end of Hanami, the Japanese cultural tradition of enjoying the cherry blossom season; and

WHEREAS, In Japanese tradition, cherry blossoms are often associated with mortality and the graceful and readily acceptance of destiny and karma; they are used often in Japanese art, music, clothing and other Japanese goods; during war time, they were a symbol of nationalism and inspiration; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Brooklyn Botanical Garden has over 200 cherry trees that are opened to visitors; the first of these trees were gifts from the Japanese government and were planted after World War I; each spring the Brooklyn Botanical Garden hosts a month long cherry blossom viewing festival called Hanami where it is ended by the celebration Sakura Matsuri; and

WHEREAS, Every year the Sakura Matsuri is visited by thousands of people of all different cultures; they experience music, tea ceremonies, art, shopping, games, and the much anticipated Sakura Matsuri Cosplay Fashion Show; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the Sakura Matsuri Festival and the culture and important contribution to the heritage of the State of New York, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to join in commending the Brooklyn Botanical Garden on another Sakura Matsuri Festival that present and future generations may come to appreciate the significance in which their history plays in the progression of our State and Nation's evolution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Brooklyn Botanical Garden upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Sakura Matsuri Festival, and for their continued efforts in bringing Japanese culture and beauty to the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden.