

BY: Senator PERALTA

WELCOMING the students and faculty of the Lexington School for the Deaf/Center for the Deaf as they visit Albany, New York, on June 6, 2017

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those institutions of true purpose and high achievement whose exemplary programs and accomplishments clearly demonstrate an enduring pursuit of excellence in the education of deaf youth in the Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to welcome the students and faculty of the Lexington School for the Deaf/Center for the Deaf as they visit Albany, New York, on June 6, 2017; and

WHEREAS, It is central to the mission of the Lexington School for the Deaf/Center for the Deaf to be an exemplary education, service and research institution for the deaf and hard of hearing in Metropolitan New York City and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, The Lexington School has helped and continues to facilitate the deaf and hard of hearing in overcoming great barriers to learning, growing, and thriving in a complex world; and

WHEREAS, Lexington School for the Deaf was founded in 1864 when the first class of six children and an instructor convened at the home of Isaac and Hannah Rosenfeld; and

WHEREAS, Due to constantly increasing enrollment, the school moved several times until it settled in 1882 at 904 Lexington Avenue with 161 students; in 1934, it officially became the Lexington School for the Deaf; and

WHEREAS, The Lexington School for the Deaf continued to grow and in 1968, its new home was inaugurated on a seven-acre site at 30th Avenue and 75th Street in Jackson Heights, Queens; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Lexington School for the Deaf is the largest school for the deaf in New York State, with its student body residing throughout the five boroughs of New York City; and

WHEREAS, In addition to its strong academic program, the Lexington School for the Deaf offers a broad range of physical and cultural education programs, including a highly regarded basketball team; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980s, the Lexington School for the Deaf became known as the Lexington School for the Deaf/Center for the Deaf after establishing several affiliate agencies to support the needs of deaf and hard of hearing children and adults; this included the Lexington Center

for Mental Health Services; the Lexington Hearing and Speech Center; and the Lexington Vocational Services, a New York State Education Department

- Vocational Services for Individuals with Disabilities-funded program; and

WHEREAS, The Lexington School for the Deaf/Center for the Deaf developed a new approach to teaching in the mid-1990s; it became the first Mediated Learning educational model in a school for the deaf, which earned it the federal designation of a Most Effective Practices school; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned our recognition and applause; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to welcome the students and faculty of the Lexington School for the Deaf/Center for the Deaf as they visit Albany, New York, on June 6, 2017, and to wish them well in all their future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Lexington School for the Deaf/Center for the Deaf.