

BY: Senator PERALTA

COMMEMORATING 196 years of Costa Rican
Independence from Spain on September 15, 2017

WHEREAS, Pre-Columbian Costa Rica is where Mesoamerican and South American native cultures met; Columbus first reached Costa Rica in 1502; and

WHEREAS, Costa Rica was named with great optimism on part of the Spanish, expecting to soon be exporting gold, silver and minerals - though it developed and remained an isolated agricultural zone; and

WHEREAS, Unlike many Spanish colonies, Costa Rican settlers developed their land by their own means and largely without the use of indigenous people as forced labor; this led to less economic outputs and future inability to share in the prosperity like the rest of the Spanish colonies - but left a lasting legacy of egalitarianism and an unmatched index of local wealth; and

WHEREAS, Spanish settlers operated large farms in rich soils of Costa Rica's hills yielding bananas and coffee - allowing these isolated independent farmers to accumulate great and unaccounted wealth; and

WHEREAS, Costa Rica joined other Central American provinces on September 15, 1821, in a joint declaration of independence from Spain; after a brief time in the Mexican Empire of Agustin de Iturbide, Costa Rica became a state in the Federal Republic of Central America from 1823 to 1839; and

WHEREAS, Costa Rica has since enjoyed a legacy of great freedom and equality, wealth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Many Costa Ricans have made New York their home, and this Legislative Body is justly proud to thank the Costa Rican people for their contributions to this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate 196 years of Costa Rican Independence from Spain on September 15, 2017.