

BY: Senator HAMILTON

COMMENDING the Kalief Browder Foundation upon the occasion of hosting its Inaugural Kalief's Hope Gala on September 16, 2017

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the Kalief Browder Foundation upon the occasion of hosting its Inaugural Kalief's Hope Gala on Saturday, September 16, 2017, at the Andrew Freedman Home, Bronx, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Kalief Browder Foundation aims to implement groundbreaking solutions that will change society's perception of those impacted by the criminal justice system, prevent re-incarceration, and promote mental health wellness; and

WHEREAS, Through the Kalief Browder Foundation's programs, those re-entering society after incarceration are empowered with the skills of job readiness and employment and then placed with rewarding work in a skilled trade field that will support worthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, The Hope Gala will honor the life of Kalief Browder, who on June 6, 2015, took his own life upon release from Rikers Island Correctional Facility after suffering irreparable emotional trauma but whose life now represents a powerful and urgent message for criminal justice reform; and

WHEREAS, The Hope Gala will honor the Change Makers of 2017, including Akeem and Venida Browder, and the community members who are strong advocates for criminal justice reform; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Kalief Browder Foundation upon the occasion of hosting its Inaugural Kalief's Hope Gala on September 16, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Akeem Browder, Founder of the Kalief Browder Foundation.