

**BY:** Senator DILAN

**COMMENDING** Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation upon the occasion of celebrating its 35th Anniversary on May 17, 2018

**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 would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation upon the occasion of celebrating its 35th Anniversary at an event on Thursday, May 17, 2018, at the Dream Hotel Downtown in New York, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Founded in 1983 by local residents and merchants, Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC) strives to build a strong, sustainable Cypress Hills and East New York, where youth and adults achieve educational and economic success, secure healthy and affordable housing and develop leadership skills to transform their lives and community; and

**WHEREAS,** Cypress Hills is comprised of a racially and ethnically-diverse community of 75,000 people; since its inception, CHLDC has been working to make the neighborhood strong and vibrant by providing comprehensive services and programs to strengthen the area's physical and economic infrastructure, provide quality educational and social services, and foster local leaders; and

**WHEREAS,** CHLDC diligently works to make Cypress Hills a greener, healthier, more sustainable place to live; it is leading Cypress Hills Verde, a long-term plan for a green and healthy neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS,** Through two initiatives, Communities for Healthy Food and Two Shades of Green, CHLDC is piloting programs to educate the neighborhood about healthy eating and exercise and retrofitting residential housing to make the buildings more sustainable and environmentally friendly; and

**WHEREAS,** CHLDC also developed and built Cypress Hills Community School, Brooklyn's first green school building; and

**WHEREAS,** CHLDC is dedicated to working with children, teenagers and families to help young people to succeed in high school, college and the workforce; its afterschool programs, which serve 1,350 students a year, has been recognized for excellence through an Afterschool Innovator Award and has been selected to participate in the highly competitive city-funded NYC Summer Quest program and TASC's Expanded program; the design of the model programs provide students from low-income

communities an academic edge through extra school instruction; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition, CHLDC has initiated a peer-counseling model for college access and persistence programs that help over 1,600 young people a year; this innovative model for Student Success Centers was developed in the Franklin K. Lane High School campus through work with College Access: Research and Action (CARA), Youth Development Institute and the Urban Youth Collaborative; CHLDC is now replicating that model with its first Middle School Student Success Center at IS 171 to help younger students navigate the complex high school choice process in New York City; and

**WHEREAS,** Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation (CHCCC) provides high-quality early childhood education to 500 children a year and has received accreditation from the prestigious National Association for the Education of Young Children and the National Association for Family Child Care; and

**WHEREAS,** CHLDC also helps young adults enter the workforce and stay employed by collaborating with JobsFirst NYC to pioneer a sectoral employment program for young adults in logistics and transportation, providing training in job readiness and working with local businesses to match them with prospective employees and support their success in the workforce; and

**WHEREAS,** This remarkable organization has developed 400 units of affordable housing in the community, creating homes for both renters and owners; CHLDC was the recipient of the 2015 Building Brooklyn Award for its affordable housing complex, Cypress Hills Village; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, CHLDC encourages its residents to become leaders who are actively engaged in influencing the future of their community; through advocacy, organizing, and planning, three new school buildings were constructed; and

**WHEREAS,** The success of Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation is in direct correlation to the efforts of its Executive Director Michelle Neugebauer, and her staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the institution and the community it serves; 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 the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation upon the occasion of celebrating its 35th Anniversary on May 17, 2018; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation.

