

**BY:** M. of A. Dilan

**HONORING** the Coalition for Community Advancement:  
Progress for East New York/Cypress Hills upon the  
occasion of its designation as the recipient of the  
Neighborhood Activist Award by the Cypress Hills  
Local Development Corporation on February 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 which would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Coalition for Community Advancement: Progress for East New York/Cypress Hills upon the occasion of its designation as the recipient of the Neighborhood Activist Award by the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, to be feted at its Annual Celebration of Community Progress on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at the Cypress Hills-Fulton Street Senior Center in Brooklyn, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Founded in 1983, the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC) is a not-for-profit community organization serving 8,000 residents a year through a comprehensive array of community service programs and neighborhood development projects; and

**WHEREAS,** Each year at its Annual Meeting and Celebration of Community Progress, the CHLDC proudly pays tribute to those who have supported the Corporation and have helped to further its mission and efforts; and

**WHEREAS,** This year, the Coalition for Community Advancement: Progress for East New York/Cypress Hills received this prestigious award for its dedicated working in tackling a tough community problem, beautify the neighborhood, and fight for justice; and

**WHEREAS,** The Coalition for Community Advancement: Progress for East New York/Cypress Hills is a coalition of community and civic organizations, small businesses, houses of worship and local citizens working together to advocate for affordable housing, new and good jobs, and a voice in the future of its neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS,** Over the past two years, the Coalition for Community Advancement: Progress for East New York/Cypress Hills has fought a principled and passionate campaign to influence the City of New York's rezoning plan, otherwise known as the East New York Plan; and

**WHEREAS,** The Coalition for Community Advancement: Progress for East New York/Cypress Hills has dedicated thousands of volunteer hours to engage the community throughout the rezoning process by testifying at

public hearings, meeting with government and elected officials, speaking to the media, and protesting, petitioning and demonstrating when needed; and

**WHEREAS,** This vital group's multifaceted approach to advocacy centers around the Coalition for Community Advancement: Progress for East New York/Cypress Hills core values and platform: building deeply affordable housing, preventing displacement, preserving existing affordable housing, holding the City accountable to any promises made, saving the manufacturing sector in the rezoning area and making sure enough schools and community facilities are built for new and existing residents; and

**WHEREAS,** Through their tireless efforts, the Coalition has created an Alternative Plan for the rezoning which contained many policy positions and resources adopted in the final rezoning; some of their successes include a \$12 million basement-apartment legalization fund, additional sites for affordable housing construction and lower affordability on public sites, a Workforce Center, resources for tenant legal services and commercial revitalization and set asides for discounted commercial rents in new mixed-use buildings; and

**WHEREAS,** The success of the Coalition for Community Advancement: Progress for East New York/Cypress Hills is in direct correlation to the efforts of its steering committee: Darma Diaz, Donna Stone, Brother Paul Muhammed, Bishop David Benke, Deacon Jose Pinedo, Ana Aguierre, Roy Frias, Catherine Greene, Farrah Lafontant, Michael Keller, Robert Santiago, Gail Davis and Bill Wilkins, as well as Michelle Neugebauer, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Coalition for Community Advancement: Progress for East New York/Cypress Hills upon the occasion of its designation as the recipient of the Neighborhood Activist Award by the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Coalition for Community Advancement: Progress for East New York/Cypress Hills.