

BY: Senator MAYER

COMMENDING Yonkers My Brother's Keeper upon the occasion of being recognized as a National Impact Community in the Obama Foundation's first MBK Community Challenge Competition

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor those enduring organizations which devote their purposeful energies to improving the quality and dignity of life of those they serve, to preserving their heritage, and to fostering cultural pride; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Yonkers My Brother's Keeper upon the occasion of being recognized as a National Impact Community in the Obama Foundation's first MBK Community Challenge Competition; and

WHEREAS, President Obama launched the My Brother's Keeper initiative to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Through this initiative, the Administration is joining with cities and towns, businesses, and foundations who are taking important steps to connect young people to mentoring, support networks, and the skills they need to find a good job or go to college and work their way into the middle class; and

WHEREAS, Since joining the national My Brother's Keeper (MBK) movement in 2016, Yonkers MBK has been recognized as a leader by former President Barack Obama, the Commissioner of the New York State Education Department, and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement; and

WHEREAS, The collaboration among Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and Yonkers MBK Co-Chairs Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools, and Reverend Dr. Jim Bostic, Executive Director of Nepperhan Community Center, has produced dynamic programs aimed at closing the opportunity gaps facing boys and young men of color; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, Yonkers MBK's lead community organization won a Community Impact Award from the Obama Foundation; the city-based Nepperhan Community Center will receive grants and organizational assistance to develop a program which will work with 250 young men of color, in collaboration with the Yonkers Public Schools, City of Yonkers and the local YMCA SNUG/Cure Violence program; and

WHEREAS, In so effectively carrying out its mission, Yonkers My Brother's Keeper has demonstrated the value of helping people reach their fullest potential, while furthering the societal and economic advancement of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, The success of Yonkers My Brother's Keeper is in direct correlation to the efforts of its dedicated volunteers, 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 organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Yonkers My Brother's Keeper upon the occasion of being recognized as a National Impact Community in the Obama Foundation's first MBK Community Challenge Competition; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Yonkers Brother's Keeper.