

BY: M. of A. Blake

MOURNING the death of Heidi Hynes, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow that this Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, is moved this day to pay tribute to an eminent woman of indomitable faith and dedication whose public service and countless accomplishments will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and

WHEREAS, Heidi Hynes, a true pillar in her community of the Bronx, New York, died on November 24, 2019, at the age of 51; and

WHEREAS, Born to Frank III and Michele (McGrath) Schloegel on January 19, 1968, Heidi Marie grew up in Kansas City, Missouri with her siblings, Theresa and Frank IV, as part of a tight-knit extended family and faith community at St. Elizabeth Parish; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from St. Teresa's Academy, Heidi Hynes went on to earn a degree from Fordham University; she joined the Franciscan Friars of Atonement mission in Jamaica before becoming a Catholic Worker, living at the St. Joseph House of Hospitality on the Lower East Side of New York City; with these experiences as formation, she returned to the Bronx, making it home and setting about building her extraordinary life; and

WHEREAS, Heidi Hynes' commitment to excellence and her spirit of humanity carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, A fierce advocate and strong leader throughout the Bronx community, Heidi Hynes was passionate about social justice, policy, youth development, and community health and wellness; she operated a broad and expanding set of youth and family programs for the residents of Crotona, including after-school, GED, sports, dance, music, and youth employment initiatives; and

WHEREAS, While supporting local youth in their promotion of positive neighborhood health, Heidi Hynes helped start a farmer's market and a community garden, while also collaborating with health institutions to reduce obesity, diabetes, and other diet-connected health problems in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary woman also founded and operated La Canasta, a community food-delivery service that distributes healthy produce to low-income households throughout the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, In response to a 2009 shooting, Heidi Hynes insisted, "the children of the Bronx deserve better," garnering responses from the Mayor of New York City, the New York City Council, the New York City Police Department Commissioner, the local Police Precinct's Commanding

Officer, and the media; she helped create the Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods Campaign and won funding from the succeeding Mayor for the CURE Violence program in Crotona, both programs designed to address violence and raise awareness locally; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to her community, Heidi Hynes co-founded Bronx Peace Action in opposition of the Iraq War, and Fight Back, a martial arts program which won countless awards and accolades for producing skilled practitioners of Karate and Jiu Jitsu; and

WHEREAS, Heidi Hynes distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; she worked at the Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center nearly all of her adult life, serving as its Executive Director for more than a decade, and she was instrumental in starting several new programs and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her parents, Heidi Hynes is survived by her husband, Brian; and her daughter, Frieda; as well as a sister, Theresa, and brother, Frank; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Heidi Hynes leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Heidi Hynes, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Heidi Hynes.