

Senate Resolution No. 1011

BY: Senator PARKER

CELEBRATING the Odunde Festival on June 13, 2021

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay just tribute to the cultural heritage of the ethnic groups which comprise and contribute to the richness and diversity of the community of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the Odunde Festival on Sunday, June 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The Odunde Festival is a one-day festival and street market catered to African-American interests and the African diaspora; it is derived from the tradition of the Yoruba people of Nigeria in celebration of the new year; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1975, the Odunde Festival began when Lois Fernandez raised one hundred dollars in donations from her neighborhood in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Festival has grown to become the largest African celebration on the east coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Held annually in the month of June, the Odunde Festival brings in participants from all parts of the world, including Africa, Brazil, and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Beginning with an all-inclusive spiritual procession, the Odunde Festival carries on from 10:00 in the morning until 8:00 at night, filling the day with vibrant traditional African clothing and food, as well as arts and craft vendors from around the globe; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations and events which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the Odunde Festival on June 13, 2021; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Odunde Festival Committee.