

BY: Senator STAVISKY

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 25, 2021, as Bangladeshi Immigrant Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 25, 2021, as Bangladeshi Immigrant Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Bangladeshi immigrants left family and friends in Bangladesh (sugg: or their country) and began arriving in the United States in the late 19th Century; and

WHEREAS, Bangladeshi immigrants came to New York City where many worked at the waterfront and on various ship docks; and

WHEREAS, Bangladesh achieved independence from Pakistan in 1971; and

WHEREAS, On September 25, 1974, an historic day for the Bengali community, the first speech was delivered in the Bengali language to the General Assembly of the United Nations; it was given by the father of the nation of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman; and

WHEREAS, More than 10,000 Bangladeshis immigrated to the United States annually, primarily mainly from the regions of Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Noakhali; and

WHEREAS, In 2018 there were over 80,000 Bengalis living in New York City, many in Queens; and

WHEREAS, For over 20 years, the Muktadhara Foundation, a New York based organization dedicated to the promotion of Bengali culture, has celebrated its history and culture through various community events including the Bangla Festival and Book Fair; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the perseverance of the Bangladeshi people in their fight for independence as well as the accomplishments of the Bengali people around the world and in the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 25, 2021, as Bangladeshi Immigrant Day in the State of New York, and to recognize the many contributions of Bangladeshi-Americans to New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; and Bishawjit Saha, CEO and Founder of the Muktheadhara Foundation Inc.