

**BY:** Senator THOMAS

**HONORING** Elaine Gross, MSW, upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2022 ERASE Racism Abraham Krasnoff Courage and Commitment Award

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to act, in accord with its long-standing traditions, to honor leaders of social justice advocacy, whose character and achievements best exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and Nation; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Elaine Gross, MSW, upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2022 ERASE Racism Abraham Krasnoff Courage and Commitment Award in recognition of her exceptional accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS,** The ERASE Racism Abraham Krasnoff Courage and Commitment Award honors leaders who have best demonstrated their commitment to fight against the struggle against racism on Long Island; and

**WHEREAS,** The Abraham Krasnoff Courage and Commitment Award is the highest recognition at the ERASE Racism's Annual Benefit; and

**WHEREAS,** ERASE Racism is a regional organization which leads public policy advocacy campaigns and related initiatives to promote racial equity in areas such as housing, public school education, and community development; Long Island, New York was the site of ERASE Racism's initial work and continues to be its geographic home and key focus area; and

**WHEREAS,** As recipient of this prestigious award, Elaine Gross, Founder and President of ERASE Racism, truly embodies the influence of ERASE Racism; and

**WHEREAS,** Elaine Gross has led ERASE Racism to prominence as a champion of fair housing, starting the statewide campaign that, in 2019, led to New York's enactment of a ban on housing discrimination against people who depend on legal non-wage sources of income for their rent; and

**WHEREAS,** Elaine Gross also initiated research on racial discrimination in the rental housing market on Long Island that led to successful legal action against discriminatory apartment owners and managers in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties, providing a model for **Newsday's** landmark 2019 study "Long Island Divided"; and

**WHEREAS,** Elaine Gross has similarly provided the vision and programmatic leadership for ERASE Racism's Education Equity Initiative, which works collaboratively with educators, students and parents to take evidenced-based strategic actions including educational campaigns on the benefits of diverse learning environments, comprised of diverse students and teachers, policy advocacy and promotion of culturally responsive

education that can sustain all students, professional development for teachers, and leadership development for students; and

**WHEREAS**, Elaine Gross is a member of the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council and the Board of Directors of the State of New York Mortgage Agency, as well as other boards; and

**WHEREAS**, Elaine Gross was hired in 2001 by the Long Island Community Foundation, where she conceived and launched the ERASE Racism Initiative, which became an independent not-for-profit corporation in 2004; her previous experience includes serving as Founding Executive Director of Sustainable America, Program Officer at the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, Deputy Director of the Boston Housing Partnership, and Human Services Director at the Boston Housing Authority; and

**WHEREAS**, This Legislative Body is proud to honor Elaine Gross, MSW, recognizing the value of her accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Elaine Gross, MSW, upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2022 ERASE Racism Abraham Krasnoff Courage and Commitment Award; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Elaine Gross.