

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMEMORATING the 175th Anniversary of The City
University of New York (CUNY)

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those institutions that have acted as pioneering forces in the pursuit of expanding educational opportunities for all within the City of New York and contributed to the expansion of key, affordable university infrastructure, to the benefit of millions of New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, The City University of New York's journey began on May 7, 1847, with the Free Academy's receipt of its charter from the New York State Legislature, the Free Academy would later go on to be renamed The City College of New York, becoming the first free public institution of higher education within the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 1870, The City University of New York founded The Female Normal and High School with the goal of creating more teachers to meet the growing need for educators in the city of New York; the institutions' guidelines for acceptance were unprecedented at the time in allowing all qualified women, irrespective of race and creed, to attend; and

WHEREAS, Fast forward 60 years to 1930, The City University of New York's annexes for City College and Hunter College were combined to create New York City's first coeducational public liberal arts college, Brooklyn College; and

WHEREAS, By 1960, the seven existing colleges, City College, Hunter, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island Community College, Bronx Community College and Queensborough were officially brought together under The City University of New York system created by the New York City Legislature: and

WHEREAS, Between 1968 and 1970, Baruch College was formed, and Hunter-in-the-Bronx became Lehman College; meanwhile, Hostos College and Medgar Evers College were created to expand educational opportunities for communities of color through rallying and local organizing; and

WHEREAS, Throughout these 175 years CUNY has impacted millions of students and produced countless alumni whose post-graduate endeavors have lent themselves to, groundbreaking contributions in a wide array of fields from business to government to the fine arts; and

WHEREAS, Today, CUNY is the largest urban public university system in the United States, comprised of 25 colleges in service to over 260,000 students, with the help of 40,000 essential faculty and staff and their dedication to equality has transitioned more low-income students into middle class college graduates than all of the Ivy League's combined; and

WHEREAS, In this spirit it is imperative to acknowledge The City University of New York's capacity to spur social and economic mobility, while fostering a continued mission to increase diversity, cultural awareness and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is now moved to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of The City University of New York and its transformative efforts in creating equitable and accessible avenues to pursuing higher education and to support them as they continue to do so for many more years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of The City University of New York (CUNY); and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Felix V. Matos Rodriguez, Chancellor of The City University of New York, and The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.