

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING BRP Companies and Urbane Development
upon the occasion of hosting the grand opening of
Flatbush Central Caribbean Marketplace

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those organizations who have dedicated ample time and resources with the goal of developing and maintaining culturally significant institutions; and

WHEREAS, Tradition calls for this State and Nation to acknowledge the central nature of these institutions and not only their ability to enrich the communities among them, but preserve them as best as possible; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Urbane Development Group and BRP Companies upon the occasion of hosting the grand opening of Flatbush Central Caribbean Marketplace, May 13-14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 2000, as the brainchild of Dr. Una Clarke, the first Caribbean-born woman elected to the City's legislature, Flatbush Caton Market was Dr. Clarke's response to addressing the struggles of many street merchants within her district; and

WHEREAS, Seeing the opportunity to build and support these members within her community, Dr. Clarke's office partnered with the City of New York to create a designated space in which these venders could set up shop; and

WHEREAS, Still unsatisfied with their transition from the street to a mere parking lot, Dr. Clarke went on to raise \$100,000 towards the construction of a permanent building where merchants could set up their markets daily under one shared roof; and

WHEREAS, The FCM building opened on January 19, 2002, and in the 20 years since, Flatbush Caton Market has been a beacon of cultural inspiration, hosting various community events, merchant showcases, and seasonal farmer's markets; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, seeking to reinvigorate and expand the Market's scope, the New York City Economic Development Corporation awarded a joint venture partnership to BRP Companies and Urbane Development to redevelop the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, The grand opening of the new Flatbush Central Caribbean Marketplace has introduced top of the line alterations, including an expanded and newly renovated vendor market, classrooms for business training, and workshops and offices to provide spaces where merchants can grow their small businesses; and

WHEREAS, The evolution of the Flatbush Central Caribbean Marketplace from its humble beginnings as Flatbush Caton Market speak to the deeply Caribbean roots of its neighborhood and, with the time and dedication put in by the community to ensure that the market can remain a cultural focal point for years to come, is in line with the tradition of this Legislative Body's sense to accordingly merit these efforts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend BRP Companies and Urbane Development upon the occasion of hosting the grand opening of Flatbush Central Caribbean Marketplace; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to BRP Companies and the Urbane Development Group.