

BY: Senator CLEARE

CONGRATULATING the Juneteenth Committee at Masjid Malcolm Shabazz upon the occasion of hosting their 29th Annual Juneteenth Parade

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize the profound impact of those exemplary organizations within the great State of New York which proactively work for the empowerment of minority communities, and the importance of such work which benefits all citizens of this State, and indeed, all citizens of the Nation, should be rightfully commended; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate the Juneteenth Committee at Masjid Malcolm Shabazz upon the occasion of hosting their 29th Annual Juneteenth Parade; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans; it is also often observed for celebrating African American culture; and

WHEREAS, The 29th Annual Juneteenth Parade and Celebration sponsored by Masjid Malcolm Shabazz Juneteenth Committee is the oldest Juneteenth Committee in the State of New York; it first started in 1993, at the suggestion of Imam W. D. Mohammed, the son of The Honorable Elijah Mohammed, who wanted his community to be a part of the broader African American Community in ensuring that African American people in North America become more knowledgeable about their history and culture through the celebration of Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, The theme for the 2022 Parade is "Ethnic Excellence Within The African American Family" with the vision to inspire their community, where African Americans will reclaim their dignity, honor, and respect in America and throughout the world in the areas of education, business, health, culture and government; and

WHEREAS, The Juneteenth Committee has the mission to celebrate, educate and commemorate the African American struggle for Freedom, Justice, and Equality in America; and

WHEREAS, The earlier Grand Marshals for the Juneteenth Celebration were pioneers and senior members in the Masjid Malcolm Shabazz community who had labored hard throughout the years in service to the Harlem community; in more recent years, Grand Marshals were selected from the community and were role models and volunteers serving their community without formal recognition; and

WHEREAS, The Parade has historically marched from 116th up to 125th Street, then to Fifth Avenue and ending at Marcus Garvey Park, where the celebration continues at the Amphitheatre with vendors, musical and cultural entertainment, guest speakers, recognition awards for the Grand

Marshals, as well as political and special supporters and guests; furthermore, the Ruff Ryders Entertainment Group has participated in the Parade since its inception; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, The Juneteenth Committee of Masjid Malcolm Shabazz met the Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) New York Support Group who held a small KingFest celebration to promote programs and activities to honor Dr. King's legacy on the same day of the Juneteenth celebration; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, that same year, Imam Pasha invited the MLK group to 116th Street, the location of the then-called Annual Juneteenth/KingFest Celebration; the MLK group took over the responsibility of managing the educational and entertainment portion of the program at the Main Tent of the combined celebration; and

WHEREAS, During this 29th year of consistently managing the growing support for the Juneteenth Celebration of Masjid Malcolm Shabazz, they are expected to have a parade and festival that will be the largest one to date; and

WHEREAS, There will be three different stages to host music and speeches, activities such as bounce houses, face painting, reading of African American historical stories to children, giveaways of African American authored books, a Double Dutch tournament, a basketball tournament, musician, Love (P Diddy) and other bands, presentation of awards, guest speakers and political guests, and keynote speeches from Imam Izak-El Pasha, resident Imam of Masjid Malcolm Shabazz; and

WHEREAS, The Grand Marshals include Dabney Montgomery (Tuskegee Airman), Michael Gardner (MTA), Hank Carter (President, Carter Rehab Center), Dr. John Palmer - (President, Harlem Hospital), Judge Tanya Kennedy, Dr. George Shelby White, DDS, Charles Rangel, The Honorable New York State Senator Cordell Clear, Jerome Hunter (La Rock Bey school of Drum and Dance); and

WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the Juneteenth Committee at Masjid Malcolm Shabazz upon the occasion of hosting their 29th Annual Juneteenth Parade; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Juneteenth Committee at Masjid Malcolm Shabazz.