

BY: Senator BRESLIN

COMMENDING Onovu Otitigbe-Dangerfield upon the occasion of her designation as the first Black Valedictorian in Albany High School history

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

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Onovu Otitigbe-Dangerfield upon the occasion of her designation as the first Black Valedictorian in Albany High School history; and

WHEREAS, Onovu Otitigbe-Dangerfield has distinguished herself as a young woman of superlative ability, establishing a high standard of academic excellence and purposefulness of life rarely achieved in youthful years; and

WHEREAS, Onovu Otitigbe-Dangerfield represents the best of developed potential inherent in our most precious resource, our youth; her achievements have brought enduring honor to her family and community and should be recognized and saluted; and

WHEREAS, With a near perfect Grade Point Average (GPA), Onovu Otitigbe-Dangerfield is graduating at the top of her class at Albany High School, becoming the first Black valedictorian in school history, a history that dates back to Reconstruction just after the Civil War in 1868, 152 years ago; and

WHEREAS, It is not just anyone who can say they have made history in high school, Onovu Otitigbe-Dangerfield is one such person; and

WHEREAS, A stellar student, a talented musician and artist, and a compassionate person, Onovu Otitigbe-Dangerfield, whose interests and strengths are varied, loves singing in the Select Choir, playing violin and piano in the Jazz Improv Band, and playing soccer; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this extraordinary young woman has devoted her time on the weekends to working at a nursing home; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her academic achievements, she is President of the Robotics Team, President of Key Club, and Editor-in-Chief of the school's on-line newspaper; and

WHEREAS, Onovu Otitigbe-Dangerfield is a trailblazer and serves as a role model for girls across her community who are seeking to break boundaries and achieve their dreams; and

WHEREAS, Just like Vice President Kamala Harris, who became the first vice president of color earlier this year, Onovu

Otitigbe-Dangerfield, would like to be a role model for girls and all students of color; this scholarly dynamo has already been accepted at such prestigious schools as, Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Johns Hopkins, and Georgia Tech, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Recognized as a treasure by her teachers, Onovu Otitigbe-Dangerfield is known for her poise, her grace, and her humility, along with so much sparkle in everything she does; and

WHEREAS, As Onovu Otitigbe-Dangerfield takes her leave of Albany High School, she bequeaths a legacy of academic achievement, school involvement and community service to which others may aspire; and

WHEREAS, Poised eagerly with enthusiasm and determined purpose, this scholar now stands honorably, with just pride in her accomplishments and in eager anticipation of future challenges, understanding and appreciating the caring counsel and support provided by her teachers and parents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Onovu Otitigbe-Dangerfield for her outstanding academic achievement and to extend to her the best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being, fully confident of her response to a promising future and appreciative of the model she represents for all aspiring young people of the Empire State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Valedictorian Onovu Otitigbe-Dangerfield.