

BY: M. of A. Rozic

COMMEMORATING the 125th Anniversary of the Queens
Public Library

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary organizations whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Queens Public Library; and

WHEREAS, The Queens Public Library was founded in 1896, with the goal of providing free access of knowledge, information, and lifelong learning opportunities to all residents; its roots took hold in the fall of 1895, in Long Island City, New York, when local resident William Nelson, acquired a large number of books which would be consolidated to become three libraries; and

WHEREAS, On December 21, 1899, the Long Island City Public Library was renamed as the Queens Borough Library; elsewhere in Queens around that time, other efforts were underway to merge several private libraries into a single public institution to further their mission; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Queens Public Library (QPL) and its librarians have continued to respond to the changing needs of the diverse communities they serve; they have been instrumental in offering free English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), citizenship and coping skills classes, and building a multilingual collection of materials in more than 30 languages; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, the QPL became the first public library in the nation to provide comprehensive programs and services for new Americans, and now has a vast digital and written collection that includes sources of information in over 200 languages; and

WHEREAS, Today, QPL is one of the largest and busiest library systems in the United States, welcoming nearly 11 million visitors each year and consisting of 66 locations and over 940,000 active library card holders; there are also branch libraries, a Central Library, seven adult learning centers, a technology lab, one universal pre-kindergarten, and two teen centers and locations; and

WHEREAS, The Queens Public Library has been an invaluable resource for residents of the Borough of Queens for 125 years; people come to the Library to connect, discover and learn through story times, book group, and various programs for all ages; and

WHEREAS, A vital part of its community, this remarkable institution

has continually strived to provide outstanding service to a diverse population of neighborhood residents; and

WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by the Queens Public Library is in direct correlation to the efforts of the many individuals who have supported the development of the Library over the years; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Queens Public Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Queens Public Library; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Queens Public Library.