

BY: M. of A. O'Donnell

CONGRATULATING Peggy Shepard upon the occasion of her promotion to the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor New Yorkers who have made substantial contributions to our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Peggy Shepard upon the occasion of her promotion to the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, As our Nation and State stand to confront the considerable environmental challenges in the years and decades ahead, we must prioritize low-income, communities of color that have historically been disproportionately burdened by pollution, while centering organizers and leaders who have worked to mobilize these communities and fight for environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, The White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, created by President Joseph R. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, will foster input from environmental justice communities by bringing together environmental justice leaders from across the country to help shape federal policymaking; and

WHEREAS, One of only two New Yorkers to have been appointed to this Council, Peggy Shepard, over decades of work as a public servant, community leader and environmental justice organizer, has worked tirelessly to ensure all of our communities can live in a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; and

WHEREAS, As a co-founder and executive director of the West Harlem Environmental Action (WE-ACT), Peggy Shepard has helped build an organization that has made lasting impacts on the environmental health and sustainability of West Harlem and Northern Manhattan while collaborating with communities and organizations from across the world; and

WHEREAS, An attendee of the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in 1991, Peggy Shepard helped create the Principles of Environmental Justice, a defining and foundational document of the global environmental justice movement; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Shepard's expertise and steadfast advocacy on the Council will bring real change for low income, communities of color in New York and across the country; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Peggy Shepard on her historic appointment to the White

House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, to thank her for her decades of service to New York State, and recognize her pioneering leadership on the critical issue of environmental justice; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Peggy Shepard.