

BY: M. of A. Barron

COMMEMORATING the 96th Birthday of Malcolm X, an advocate for human rights, and one of the most influential revolutionary leaders in history

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend individuals and events which celebrate our nation's great struggle to fulfill the promise of equality and opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 96th Birthday of Malcolm X, an advocate for human rights, and one of the most influential revolutionary leaders in history; and

WHEREAS, Annually, there is a wreath laying, and businesses shut down for hours in honor of Malcolm X's birthday; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 19, 1925; and

WHEREAS, On January 14, 1958, Malcolm X married Betty Sanders; they had six children, Attallah, Qubilah, Ilyasah, Gamilah, Malaak, and Malikah; and

WHEREAS, Once a member of the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X was a Muslim minister, public speaker, and human rights activist; to his admirers, he was a courageous advocate for the rights of people of African ancestry in America; and

WHEREAS, After his departure from the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X founded Muslim Mosque Inc., and the Organization of Afro American Unity; he then became a Sunni Muslim and after his holy pilgrimage to Mecca, he became El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X travelled to the continent of Africa meeting with African Leaders and connecting the struggle of African people in America to the struggle of African liberation on the continent; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X remained a strong advocate for revolutionary Black nationalism, a call for establishing a nation within a nation for people of African ancestry in America; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X made his mark in the world during the Black Power and Civil Rights Movements becoming one of the most memorable revolutionary Black leaders from that era; and

WHEREAS, He was best known for being outspoken on human rights issues; "The Ballot or the Bullet" and "Message to the Grassroots" are two speeches made by Malcolm X that will go down in history as two of the most powerful speeches ever delivered in America; and

WHEREAS, On February 21, 1965, Malcolm X was assassinated while giving a lecture in the Audubon Ballroom, in New York City, which was subsequently designated as a landmark and currently houses the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, in recognition of the deceased Black revolutionary leader, Lenox Avenue in Harlem, New York City was named after Malcolm X; and

WHEREAS, The bravery, and the willingness of Malcolm X to sacrifice his life for the well-being of future generations, is deserving of the highest honor by all defenders of freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 96th Birthday of Malcolm X, an advocate for human rights, and one of the most influential revolutionary leaders in history.