

BY: M. of A. Reyes

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2022, as Dominican Heritage Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the commemoration of the 178th Anniversary of Dominican Independence

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to commemorate historical events which exemplify the spirit and struggle of peoples throughout the world to achieve independence and live in peace and freedom; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2022, as Dominican Heritage Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the commemoration of the 178th Anniversary of Dominican Independence; and

WHEREAS, The year 2022 marks the 178th Anniversary of an independent Dominican state; and

WHEREAS, The Dominican people proudly trace their heritage back hundreds of years on the island of Hispaniola as indigenous Quisqueyanos; and

WHEREAS, Dominicans first arrived in the United States in 1613, with the arrival of Juan Rodriguez, who was also the very first immigrant to New York City; and

WHEREAS, Five thousand Dominicans arrived in New York City through Ellis Island at the turn of the 20th Century; and

WHEREAS, Dominicans are now the largest immigrant group in New York City and represent approximately 30 percent of the entire Latino population in the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, There are over two million Dominicans in the country and over one million live in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Dominicans represent the largest group of naturalized citizens of all immigrant populations in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Today, we recognize the numerous contributions of Dominicans and Dominican Americans to our great State adding to the cultural and economic vibrancy of New York; Dominican leaders contribute through music, literature, cuisine, fashion and design, film and television, stage work, sports, education, and government and politics; and

WHEREAS, Throughout history and up to today, the Dominican people on

the mainland and abroad have exhibited an everlasting sense of bravery in rising up against oppressors, with their national anthem exclaiming Quisqueyanos as "brave and indomitable"; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those New Yorkers of Dominican descent for their enduring contributions to the educational, social, moral and economic principles that are so deeply ingrained in the fabric of our country and State; and

WHEREAS, The 178th Anniversary of the Independence of the Dominican Republic provides an opportunity to recognize the significance of their contributions to the quality and character of life, and, through events and activities, for all people to gain a greater appreciation of Dominican history and traditions, and of the role Dominicans have played, and will continue to play, in our society; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize such events of significance which foster ethnic pride and exemplify the cultural diversity that represents and strengthens the fabric of the people and the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2022 as Dominican Heritage Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the commemoration of the 178th Anniversary of Dominican Independence, and to publicly encourage the citizens of New York to celebrate the history and trajectory of Dominicans in the State, and to seek that New Yorkers of Dominican descent see themselves represented by government, their influence reflected on our streets, and their ties to the State strengthened; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; and various Dominican organizations in New York State.