

**BY:** M. of A. Vanel

**COMMEMORATING** the 56th Anniversary of Workshop in  
Business Opportunities of Harlem, New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the efforts of social workers who, in providing essential care and support to people in the communities across New York State, serve to enhance the quality of life for some of our most vulnerable residents; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 56th Anniversary of Workshop in Business Opportunities of Harlem, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Workshop in Business Opportunities (WIBO) is a private non-profit organization which assists men and women in becoming successful entrepreneurs by enabling small business owners and entrepreneurs from underserved communities to achieve financial success by starting, operating, and growing successful businesses that develop economic power, provide jobs, and improve communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Founded in 1966 by Walter Geier and Mallalieu Woolfolk in Harlem, New York, WIBO's objective is to increase economic opportunities, improve local communities, and change lives through the power of entrepreneurship; and

**WHEREAS,** Stephen Jackson, a successful business owner, committed board member and dedicated volunteer, became the CEO of WIBO on May 1, 2018; and

**WHEREAS,** A valuable asset to the organization, Stephen Jackson provides a variety of experience to the students of WIBO with notable strengths in sales and marketing strategy, as well as in the implementation of new technologies that aid in the growth of organizations; he is well known for maximizing resources to achieve his goals by gaining the trust of key stakeholders and developing pleasant and enthusiastic work cultures; and

**WHEREAS,** By offering a variety of renowned programs for participants to access knowledge, networks, and capital, WIBO has become one of the leading providers of comprehensive and effective training and mentoring for entrepreneurs dedicated to starting and growing local businesses; since 1966, WIBO has trained nearly 18,000 entrepreneurs who have created over 34,000 job opportunities; and

**WHEREAS,** WIBO helps bring business ideas to life through its 10 or 16 week "How to Build a Growing Profitable Business" Workshop, a program that helps entrepreneurs take the necessary steps and actions needed to improve an existing business; participants gain a solid foundation on how to start and grow a profitable business by the end of the informative program; and

**WHEREAS,** A lasting resource beyond graduating from the program, WIBO offers additional services to WIBO Alumni, such as WIBO Academy, which is an online learning platform where alumni can improve their entrepreneurial knowledge and skills through advanced courses, and free financial counseling; the latter aids in establishing or improving credit history, creating a personal budget, opening a bank account, reducing debt, preparing the alumni's taxes for free, and more; and

**WHEREAS,** Alongside financial counseling, alumni also receive free business counseling; WIBO's business advisory council has top experts in human resources, project management, business law, brand marketing, and more, to help all alumni with their business needs; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor those organizations and individuals who faithfully devote their purposeful energies to fostering opportunities for and to contributing to the quality of life for the youth of the communities they serve; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 56th Anniversary of Workshop in Business Opportunities of Harlem, New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Stephen Jackson, CEO of WIBO.