

BY: Senator SEPULVEDA

RECOGNIZING Dr. Rafael A. Lantigua's exceptional medical career and contributions to New York in light of his recent honor by the Dominican President Luis Abinader Corona

WHEREAS, The State of New York proudly acknowledges and honors individuals whose remarkable achievements and contributions have significantly enriched both local and global communities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rafael A. Lantigua, an eminent physician and educator, has been distinguished as the most celebrated Dominican doctor in New York by Dominican President Luis Abinader, a testament to his extraordinary career and impact; and

WHEREAS, This prestigious accolade was highlighted during an official ceremony on December 17, 2023, in Santo Domingo, where a bust of Dr. Lantigua was unveiled at the inauguration of the Boulevard of the Dominican Abroad, symbolizing his profound influence and respect in the medical community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lantigua's journey, beginning with his medical degree from the Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo and subsequent migration to New York, has been marked by dedication, compassion, and excellence in the field of medicine; and

WHEREAS, Serving as a Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Community Service at Columbia University, Dr. Lantigua has played a pivotal role in advancing medical education, healthcare access, and research, particularly benefiting minority populations; and

WHEREAS, His significant contributions to medical research and public health are evident in his authorship of over 100 medical articles, with a focus on aging and Alzheimer's disease among Latino populations, demonstrating his commitment to addressing key health disparities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lantigua's extensive involvement in various community service organizations, including the Dominican Medical Society, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund, and the Latino Commission on AIDS, highlights his deep commitment to community advocacy and support; and

WHEREAS, His numerous honors, including the Arnold Gold Award in Humanism, the Ewig Clinical Scholar Award, Grand Marshall of the Dominican Parade, and the Prestigious Premio Internacional al Emigrante Dominicano Sr. Oscar De La Renta, reflect his exceptional service and contributions, particularly to the Dominican community in New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pauses in its deliberations to recognize Dr. Rafael A. Lantigua for his outstanding achievements in

medicine, his enduring dedication to community service, and his significant role as an influential leader in New York and the Dominican community, as recently honored by Dominican President Luis Abinader; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Rafael A. Lantigua.