

BY: Senator CLEARE

HONORING longtime educational professional Delores Roberts for a lifetime of service upon the occasion of her retirement

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that teachers of this great Empire State deserve our recognition as they support students to reach their goals of integration, independence, and equality in our communities and society at large; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor longtime educational professional Delores Roberts for a lifetime of service upon the occasion of her retirement; and

WHEREAS, Achieving a wealth of experience and knowledge of the needs of the Harlem community over her 30-year career, Delores Roberts grew up exposed to resources and programs that would help her lead a successful life outside of Harlem; she attended Wadleigh Secondary School from grades 7 to 9 and her teachers inspired her by providing students with a wide range of activities and essential tools; and

WHEREAS, Aspiring towards the mission to give back to her community and present opportunities to raise awareness and ensure academic success for our youth, Delores Roberts began teaching as a special educator at Wadleigh; within a year, she became a crisis intervention teacher for the CEH/CLASS for emotionally handicapped students; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her tenure, Delores Roberts was able to create and develop many school-wide initiatives, programs, and events aimed at developing successful global productive citizens; she founded Swap Students Court to create a peer-to-peer system aimed to address low-level infractions; students served as judges, lawyers, and jurors, which exposed the students to courtrooms and allowed them to participate in small group workshops facilitated by lawyers; and

WHEREAS, Delores Roberts was the Head Dean and COSA Coordinator for Student Affairs; Wadleigh students also had the opportunity to participate in college tours, the CFES College for Every Student program, foreign exchange programs to Amsterdam and Europe, Big Brother/Sister internship programs, and a variety of extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, Truly devoted to her students and the Harlem community, Delores Roberts serves as founder and CEO of the Harlem Luft Initiative Inc.; the organization is committed to improving youth, through leadership; these programs have become essential for youth development in New York's metropolitan area, providing leadership innovation fundamentals, teamwork workshops, and training; and

WHEREAS, The lifework of Delores Roberts is inextricably linked with

the history of Wadleigh; many times over the past three decades, the school has been slated for closure or diminution and each time Delores has rallied to the community to save this neighborhood treasure; today, Wadleigh Secondary School for the Visual and Performing Arts stands a beacon and is exemplary of the legacy and vision of Delores Roberts; and

WHEREAS, A great community is only as great as those persons who provide exemplary service, whether through participation in voluntary programs, through unique personal achievement in their profession or other endeavors, or simply through a lifetime of good citizenship; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for Delores Roberts and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor longtime educational professional Delores Roberts for a lifetime of service upon the occasion of her retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Delores Roberts.