

BY: Senator CHU

COMMEMORATING the observance of the 525th Anniversary of the establishment of Taishan on February 12, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to the rich history of great cities and to foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, During the Ming Dynasty, the area of present-day Taishan was carved out of Xinhui County on February 12, 1499; and

WHEREAS, The Taishanese people, also known as Hoi San Ngin, are a Chinese group from the area comprised of the Taicheng Subdistrict, Dajiang town, Shuibu town, Sijiu town, Baisha town, Sanhe town, Chonglou town, Doushan town, Duhu town, Chixi town, Duanfen town, Guanghai town, Haiyan town, Wencun town, Shenjing town, Beidou town, and Chuandao town in the southwest of Guangdong province; and

WHEREAS, Taishanese immigrants were among the first Chinese people to settle in the United States, with the oldest record of immigration from Taishan dated 1821, approximately 203 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Taishanese Americans have made significant contributions to the United States, New York State, and New York City; and

WHEREAS, The Taishanese language was the original bridge-language of Chinatowns across the United States; the Taishanese community has preserved its cultural identity and language, enriching the fabric of New York's diverse population; Taishanese Americans have shaped the dynamic cultural landscape of New York City including to its culinary scene; and

WHEREAS, Between 1863 and 1869, the United States built the transcontinental Pacific Railway, significantly relying on the manual labor of a Chinese immigrants, most of whom were from Taishan; in June 1867, five days following a terrible and fatal explosion, 3,000 Chinese railroad workers dropped their tools, stood their ground, and went on strike; their acts demonstrated they would not be taken for granted and challenged the stereotype of a passive and obedient Chinese immigrant; and

WHEREAS, Taishanese Americans continue to play a vital role in the economic relationship between the United States and eastern Asia, contributing to bilateral trade and investment, creating jobs, and fostering mutually beneficial relationships; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to urge the citizens of New York State to join those from Taishan as they rejoice in

the accomplishments of their ancestors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the observance of the 525th Anniversary of the establishment of Taishan on February 12, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Taishanese community in New York.