

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Youth Symposium on March 11, 2023

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those illustrious organizations within the State of New York whose focus and intent have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Sigma Chapter upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Youth Symposium on Saturday, March 11, 2023, in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Held on the second Saturday of March by Alumnae Chapters across the nation, the Annual Youth Symposium serves as a unifying effort during Sigma Week to support local youth and address issues that affect teens today; and

WHEREAS, The Annual Youth Symposium, supported by undergraduate chapters and affiliates, is designed to highlight some of the prevalent concerns that negatively impact our youth, such as drugs, teen violence, abuse, low self-esteem, suicide, teen pregnancy, human trafficking, and more; and

WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. was organized on November 12, 1922, in Indianapolis, Indiana by seven young educators: Mary Lou Allison Gardner Little, Dorothy Hanley Whiteside, Vivian Irene White Marbury, Nannie Mae Gahn Johnson, Hattie Mae Annette Dulin Redford, Bessie Mae Downey Rhoades Martin, and Cubena McClure; and

WHEREAS, Becoming an incorporated national collegiate sorority on December 30, 1929, Sigma Gamma Rho was granted a charter to the Alpha chapter at Butler University; and

WHEREAS, The originator of this nationwide, one-day symposium, Dr. LaRona J. Morris, Past Grand Basileus or National President, initiated this program under her administration through the years of 1996 through 2000; and

WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho's motivation to empower youth in our communities through hands-on and interactive leadership activities has never dulled; the Annual Youth Symposium has a standardized agenda and program package to be used nationwide at the event; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, the National Headquarters moved from Chicago, Illinois, to its current residence in Cary, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Sigma women are dedicated to helping each other, and their

personal success is recognized in The AURORA and through various awards; and

WHEREAS, The dynamic and inspiring women of Sigma Gamma Rho have built and sustained a well-known and well-respected reputation for leading positive change to help uplift the community through sisterhood, leadership, and service; and

WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho's commitment to service is expressed in its slogan, "Greater Service, Greater Progress," and the sorority has a proud history of providing positive and proactive community outreach nationally and internationally; the programs, partnerships, and sponsorships offered by the sorority represent Sigma Gamma Rho's commitment to promoting the greater good in education, service, and leadership development; and

WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho has welcomed more than 100,000 collegiate and professional women from diverse backgrounds and professions; the sorority has more than 500 chapters worldwide, in the United States, Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Germany, South Korea, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the United Arab Emirates; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to empowering women at all stages in life, Sigma Gamma Rho also has active affiliate groups to assist alumnae chapters with various service efforts and programs, such as The Rhoer Club Affiliates, which consists of teenage girls, and Philos Affiliates, which are friends of the sorority; and

WHEREAS, The main goal of the locally anticipated Annual Youth Symposium is to be relevant in the lives of youth; the program is extraordinarily beneficial to developing minds and improves both educational and behavioral outcomes of participants; and

WHEREAS, With the current state of our world, protecting our youth is imperative to the progress of our Nation; the Annual Youth Symposium equips local youth with the skills and competencies to advocate for themselves as well as their peers; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this vital event creates dialogue and presents opportunities for youth to connect to community resources, providing inspiration for positive and long-lasting change; and

WHEREAS, The success of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. is in direct correlation to the efforts of its members, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the sorority and the population it serves; and

WHEREAS, In light of its commitment, dedication, and successful efforts, it is the practice of this Legislative Body to extend its highest commendation to the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Sigma Chapter upon the

occasion of hosting its Annual Youth Symposium on Saturday, March 11, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Sigma Chapter.