

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING FACE Africa upon the occasion of hosting its Annual WASH Gala, a Clean Water Benefit, on March 25, 2023

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to call attention to those events which serve to enhance the cultural enrichment and preserve the heritage of Africa; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend FACE Africa upon the occasion of hosting its Annual WASH Gala, a Clean Water Benefit, on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at Current in New York, New York; and

WHEREAS, The FACE Africa WASH Gala is held annually to raise awareness and funds for clean water projects for marginalized communities in remote regions of Sub-Saharan Africa; it is also a celebration of Africans and Friends of Africa making a difference in their respective industries and communities; and

WHEREAS, FACE Africa was established after the Liberian civil war that took the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and displaced millions; the country suffered massive destruction and the very fabric of society was torn apart; and

WHEREAS, With an 80% unemployment rate, extreme poverty with average earnings of \$1 a day, no electricity, no running water or sewage system, and an inadequate education system, the country had enormous needs; and

WHEREAS, At the young age of eight, Saran Kaba Jones and her own family were forced to flee the devastation; in 2008, she returned to her homeland and was deeply distressed by the acute poverty and the debilitating effect it had on the young, elderly, weak and strong; and

WHEREAS, Saran Kaba Jones and other volunteers formed FACE Africa to help the people of Liberia to reclaim the means to build a better life and proper; they discovered one of the major impediments to education was the lack of access to safe drinking water; it was estimated there would be 272 million more school attendance days per year if adequate investment were made in drinking water and sanitation; and

WHEREAS, In Africa alone, people spend over 40 billion hours every year, walking for water; poverty is directly related to the accessibility of clean drinking water, without it, the chances of breaking out of the poverty trap are extremely slim; and

WHEREAS, The social and economic consequences of unsafe water penetrate into realms of education, opportunities for gainful employment, physical strength and health, agricultural and industrial development, and thus the overall productive potential of a community,

nation, and/or region; the United Nations estimates Sub-Saharan Africa alone loses 40 billion potential work hours per year collecting water; and

WHEREAS, Team FACE Africa is part of a generation that shares a deep commitment to creating an equitable and sustainable world in which everyone has access to opportunity and basic human needs; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend FACE Africa upon the occasion of hosting its Annual WASH Gala, a Clean Water Benefit, on March 25, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to FACE Africa.