

BY: Senator MYRIE

RECOGNIZING June 17, 2023, as One Love Little Caribbean Day, in conjunction with the observance of National Caribbean Heritage Month

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay just tribute to the cultural heritage of the ethnic groups which comprise and contribute to the richness and diversity of the community of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize June 17, 2023, as One Love Little Caribbean Day, in conjunction with the observance of National Caribbean Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, National Caribbean American Month was formed to honor these talented individuals and the positive relations the country has built with the Caribbean; while immigration increased before the 20th century, it has since declined gradually; most immigrants are from five countries: Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago; and

WHEREAS, Brooklyn's Little Caribbean is home to the largest and most diverse Caribbean-American LatinX community outside of the West Indies, and makes up 20 percent of New York City's overall population; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Claire A. Nelson, Ph.D. launched the official campaign for June as National Caribbean American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the House of Representatives passed the bill for recognizing the significance of Caribbean Americans; a year later, a proclamation making the Resolution official was signed by the President in June 2006; and

WHEREAS, On June 17, 2023, elected officials, local organizations and businesses will gather in the section of Brooklyn known as Little Caribbean to designate it as "One Love Little Caribbean Day," complete with a ribbon cutting ceremony and a tour of the local businesses; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, caribBEING spearheaded the naming of Little Caribbean to recognize, celebrate, and foster the contributions of Caribbean-Americans in New York City and the neighborhood of Flatbush, Brooklyn, as a center for culture, community and commerce; Brooklyn Flatbush, Prospect Lefferts Garden, and East Flatbush were officially dubbed Little Caribbean in 2017; and

WHEREAS, caribBEING is an inclusive hub for creativity featuring artists and makers from Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Guadeloupe, Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Martinique, France, Canada, and others; and

WHEREAS, caribBEING is a multidisciplinary venture dedicated to showcasing Caribbean culture, art, and film in Greater New York City and around the world, where art, culture and lifestyle meet global Caribbean and LatinX heritage; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this vital organization celebrates and amplifies Caribbean culture and lifestyle, supporting businesses, creating community, and documenting as well as creating culture; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize such events of significance which foster ethnic pride and exemplify the cultural diversity that represents and strengthens the fabric of the people and the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize June 17, 2023, as One Love Little Caribbean Day, in conjunction with the observance of National Caribbean Heritage Month; and be it further

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