

Assembly Resolution No. 197

BY: M. of A. Fall

CELEBRATING the life of Eric Eugene Garvin,
devoted humanitarian, attorney, community leader and
renowned social justice advocate

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, have served to better the quality of life in our community and have had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Eric Garvin was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Eric Garvin, affectionately known as Gene, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Eric Garvin of Staten Island, New York, died tragically while traveling abroad in Chile; he was 38 years old; and

WHEREAS, Eric Garvin graduated from Westlake High School in Waldorf, Maryland in 2002, before earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 2006 from Mercer University, where he pledged the Theta Pi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his undergraduate studies, Eric Garvin continued his education at the University of Maryland Law School where, as a result of his exceptional debating skills, he was selected as a distinguished member of the University's Moot Court team; and

WHEREAS, After earning his Law degree in 2010, Eric Garvin began his illustrious career working for former Councilwoman Debi Rose in New York City's Community Engagement Unit; he then transitioned to the Office of Criminal Justice under former Mayor Bill de Blasio; and

WHEREAS, In first assignment in the Mayor's office, this extraordinary man worked to reduce violent crime in neighborhoods throughout New York City; while assigned to the Brownsville neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, he worked tirelessly with local Gang leaders to bring about peace; and

WHEREAS, A vital part of the anti-violence movement of New York City, Eric Garvin went on to also become a vocal critic of the incarcerated individuals' conditions at Rikers Island, where he worked diligently to help prisoners transition back into society; and

WHEREAS, With a passion for exploring as much of the world as possible, Eric Garvin was constantly on the move, traveling to more than 40 countries; he also enjoyed fishing and photography in his free time, and had become an avid fisherman, often sending his mom and sister his ugliest catches via pictures and videos; and

WHEREAS, One of Eric Garvin's proudest moments was the creation and patent of his PURE REUP agency, which focuses on entrepreneurship and education; under his able leadership, the agency sought out ways to encourage young people to pursue their passions, despite being impacted by racism, violence, poverty, and other forms of social decay; and

WHEREAS, Inspired by his beloved parents, Eric Sr. and Anna Marie, and his sister, Naomi, as well as his grandmothers, Marjorie Garvin and Mary Joseph, this truly remarkable man spent his life helping the underserved and fought extensively against injustice; his radiant soul and ceaseless dedication to public service has inspired countless individuals to uplift and protect others in his name; and

WHEREAS, A young man of potential and promise, Eric Garvin had a big warm smile that exuded confidence and competence with a work ethic to match; the passion he had for social and criminal justice issues drove him to fiercely advocate for those whom society often overlooked, cast aside, ignored, or persecuted because he believed in their intrinsic value and need for opportunities and second chances; and

WHEREAS, Eric Garvin was loving, kind, smart, articulate, and driven; he was a humble leader who made a lasting difference in any arena he chose; it is heartbreaking that his bright light was extinguished by the very cycle of violence he fought so hard to eradicate; and

WHEREAS, Eric Garvin's infinite selflessness and benevolence will shine on through his family's vivid and happy memories; his insight and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love, light and hope to the countless lives he touched; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Eric Garvin leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing man; he will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Eric Eugene Garvin, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Eric Eugene Garvin.