

BY: M. of A. Reyes

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim July 25, 2023, as Afro-Latina, Afro-Caribbean, and African Diaspora Women's Day in the State of New York

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, This Legislative Body hereby memorializes Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim July 25, 2023, as Afro-Latina, Afro-Caribbean, and African Diaspora Women's Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of International Afro-Latina, Afro-Caribbean, and African Diaspora Women's Day; and

WHEREAS, Each year on July 25th, women of African descent across Latin America and the Caribbean, from Argentina to Puerto Rico, gather to celebrate International Afro-Latina, Afro-Caribbean, and African Diaspora Women's Day; and

WHEREAS, This vital holiday was created on July 25, 1992, when Black women from 32 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean gathered in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, for the First Meeting of Afro-Latin American and Afro-Caribbean Women; and

WHEREAS, The meeting was called to celebrate Black culture and identity, to honor the legacy and contributions of Black women and to combat racism and sexism; and

WHEREAS, Over 130 million people of African descent live in Latin America; Afro-descendant women have and continue to face racial discrimination, poverty, abuse, and marginalization; many have less access to quality education, housing, employment, and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Afro-descendant women are also affected by policies, laws, and practices that intentionally or unintentionally create discrimination; acknowledging these injustices, The United Nations General Assembly declared 2015-2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice and Development; and

WHEREAS, This declaration aims to acknowledge the contribution of Afro-descendants, increase understanding and respect for Black heritage and culture, and create opportunities for Afro-descendants; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) calls on countries, "to promote and strengthen this group's participation through special measures and affirmative action, promoting safe spaces for their effective impact and combating all forms of discrimination and violence against them in all political institutions

and spaces."; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, International Afro-Latina, Afro-Caribbean, and African Diaspora Women's Day has been celebrated in various ways in countries throughout Latin America, the United States and Spain; and

WHEREAS, Black women in many countries have been able to promote the creation of laws against racial discrimination and segregation through their continued activism and intellectual discussions on racial discrimination since the First Meeting of Afro-Latin American and Afro-Caribbean women; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to recognize those important days which remind us of the rich and diverse heritage of our great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is duly fitting that all New Yorkers join in these important celebrations of one of our State's most vibrant communities; this much anticipated observance and its accompanying activities will foster greater appreciation for women of African descent and their culture, and will serve to promote the spirit of cooperation that is characteristic of all citizens of New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim July 25, 2023, as Afro-Latina, Afro-Caribbean, and African Diaspora Women's Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.