

BY: Senator MARTINS

COMMEMORATING the 15th Anniversary of Spectrum Design

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the achievements of those individuals and businesses that contribute substantially to the economic and cultural vitality of their communities, thereby enhancing overall well-being of the entire Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of Spectrum Design; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, the Nicholas Center for Autism, along with its employment initiative, Spectrum Design Foundation, was established; and

WHEREAS, Co-founders Stella Spanakos, Nicole Sugrue, and Patrick Bardsley formed a pilot program with two teens on the autism spectrum and a single piece of equipment in 2011, and experienced drastic demand shortly thereafter; and

WHEREAS, In the years following, with The Nicholas Center's purchase of a new 500 square foot building and then a move to a 1,500 square foot building, Spectrum Designs expanded its gainful employment of individuals on the autism spectrum and continued experiencing devoted support from its community; and

WHEREAS, By 2014, Spectrum Designs became the go-to T-shirt printing and apparel customization business for many school districts and big businesses in its area, utilizing state-of-the-art embroidery and digital and screen-printing methods; and

WHEREAS, Continuing to experience unprecedented growth over the next many years, Spectrum Designs upgraded to an 8,000 square foot facility, has reached over \$7 million in revenue, has expanded its client base steadily, and increased its employment impact to 77 individuals and over 69,000 total paid hours; and

WHEREAS, Experiencing admirable success, Spectrum Designs opened a second location and expanded its workforce to 51 neurodiverse employees in 2020; this incredible team worked diligently, distributing 150,000 units of personal protection equipment, donating food, and providing free or donating laundry services to its community during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Spectrum Designs has expanded to create Spectrum Suds, a boutique laundromat with a social mission of inclusive employment and vocational training opportunities in a neurodiverse world, and Spectrum Bakes, a gourmet bakery producing homemade treats; and

WHEREAS, With a deep care for its community and environment, Spectrum Design proudly earned certification from the Sustainable Green Printing Partnership, joining an elite group of just 75 organizations worldwide to exceed government environmental standards; Spectrum Designs is the only non-profit to achieve such distinction; and

WHEREAS, The success of Spectrum Design is in direct correlation to the efforts of its hardworking and dedicated staff, all of whom are considered integral parts of the success of the business; their 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 business and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges this exceptional business, its contributions to the local and state economies, and its vibrant role in improving the quality of life in its community, fully confident that it will continue to enjoy the sparkling successes it has experienced thus far; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of Spectrum Design; and be it further

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