

**BY:** Senator PARKER

**COMMEMORATING** the 20th Annual Staten Island Black  
History Town Hall Meeting on February 22, 2025

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those events that celebrate and honor the rich history, culture, and contributions of African Americans in the State of New York and across the Nation; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 20th Annual Staten Island Black History Town Hall Meeting on February 22, 2025, organized by First Central Baptist Church of Staten Island under the esteemed leadership of Rev. Dr. Demetrius S. Carolina; and

**WHEREAS,** For two decades, this esteemed gathering has served as a critical platform for education, discussion, and advocacy, fostering meaningful dialogue on issues impacting the African American community while uplifting the legacy of Black excellence, resilience, and progress; and

**WHEREAS,** This year's event, centered on the powerful theme, "Your Health is Your Wealth--Mind, Body, and Soul," underscores the vital importance of holistic well-being within the Black community, emphasizing mental, physical, and spiritual health as essential components of personal and collective prosperity; and

**WHEREAS,** Through engaging discussions, expert panels, and community-driven initiatives, the 20th Annual Staten Island Black History Town Hall Meeting will address health disparities, promote wellness strategies, and encourage pathways toward financial and emotional empowerment; and

**WHEREAS,** Hosted at First Central Baptist Church of Staten Island, an institution which has long been a beacon of faith, service, and advocacy, this milestone event brings together distinguished leaders, educators, activists, and health professionals to share knowledge and inspire action in the pursuit of social justice, economic advancement, and improved quality of life; and

**WHEREAS,** The success of the Staten Island Black History Town Hall Meeting is in direct correlation to the tireless efforts of Rev. Dr. Demetrius S. Carolina and First Central Baptist Church of Staten Island, whose unwavering dedication to education, community empowerment, and the promotion of health and wellness has created a lasting impact; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is moved to acknowledge the profound significance of this annual event and to commend all those involved for their efforts in preserving and promoting the invaluable contributions

of the African American community; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 20th Annual Staten Island Black History Town Hall Meeting on February 22, 2025, organized by First Central Baptist Church of Staten Island and Rev. Dr. Demetrius S. Carolina, with the theme, "Your Health is Your Wealth--Mind, Body, and Soul," and to honor the organizers, speakers, and participants who continue to uphold the principles of knowledge, empowerment, and unity; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to First Central Baptist Church of Staten Island and Rev. Dr. Demetrius S. Carolina.