

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Terrie M. Williams upon the occasion of receiving the Florence Gould Gross Award from NAMI-FAMILYA of Rockland County on June 17, 2009

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those exemplary individuals whose personal triumphs serve as an inspiration to the citizens of this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Terrie M. Williams upon the occasion of receiving the Florence Gould Gross Award from NAMI-FAMILYA of Rockland County at its Awards Night, Healing Starts with Us, on June 17, 2009; and

WHEREAS, An accomplished entrepreneur, youth advocate and mentor, Terrie M. Williams was in constant emotional pain for 30 years, keeping on an outer face of success while inside she was suffering from depression; and

WHEREAS, As Terrie M. Williams healed, her mission became clear, break the silence of the crippling taboo of depression and help those who suffer, from traumatized youth to the successful executive to hardened members of gangs on the streets; and

WHEREAS, In her most recent book, BLACK PAIN: IT JUST LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT HURTING, Terrie M. Williams reveals the story of her own struggle with chronic and crippling depression, showing how emotional pain impacts the Black experience and is the root of many self destructive acts; and

WHEREAS, A social worker by training, Terrie M. Williams founded the Terrie Williams Agency, a public relations firm that has represented such icons as Miles Davis, Johnny Cochran, Eddie Murphy and major organizations such as HBO, Time Warner, the NBA and Essence Communication Partners; and

WHEREAS, Terrie M. Williams received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Sociology from Brandeis University and a Master of Science degree in Social Work from Columbia University; in addition, her "Stay Strong Foundation" is dedicated to youth advocacy and mentoring; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such enduring courage and accomplishment are brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend those individuals for the edification and emulation of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for Terrie M. Williams and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Terrie M. Williams upon the occasion of receiving the Florence Gould Gross Award from NAMI-FAMILYA of Rockland County on June 17, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Terrie M. Williams.