

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to the memory of Conrad McRae upon the occasion of renaming the basketball courts at Dean Street Playground in his honor on Sunday, August 29, 2010

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to pay tribute to the memory of Conrad McRae upon the occasion of renaming the basketball courts at Dean Street Playground in his honor on Sunday, August 29, 2010; and

WHEREAS, On this fine day, a great honor will be bestowed in Conrad McRae's honor; the New York City Parks Department has agreed to rename the basketball courts from Dean Street Playground to "The Conrad McRae Basketball Courts" in his loving memory and in appreciation of the league he began before he passed; and

WHEREAS, Conrad McRae attended Brooklyn Technical High School where he excelled at basketball; he earned the nickname "McNasty" while playing in the Entertainers' Basketball Classic in Harlem's famous Rucker Park; in high school, he was named PSAL High School All-City from 1986-89, selected to the 1989 McDonald's All-American Team and participated in the Junior Olympics; and

WHEREAS, After high school, Conrad McRae accepted a scholarship to Syracuse University, playing under legendary basketball coach Jim Boeheim; Conrad's tenacity, athleticism and defensive skills turned him into a second round draft pick in 1993 by the Washington Bullets; although he never played in the NBA, he went on to play for the Fort Wayne Fury of the CBA in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Afterwards, Conrad McRae moved on to play basketball in Europe, eventually starring on several European teams in Turkey, France, Italy and Greece; he helped Efes Pilsen S.K. of Istanbul to win the European Championship Korac Cup of 1996, and also reached the Italian championship finals in the 1996-1997 season with Teamsystem Bologna; and

WHEREAS, On July 10, 2000, Conrad McRae died at the age of 29 during an Orlando Magic summer league practice; in his memory, the former Dean Street Park Tournament, a tournament Conrad helped to develop, was renamed the Conrad McRae/McNasty Tournament shortly after his death; and

WHEREAS, The Conrad McRae/McNasty Tournament serves the 11-15 year-old players at Dean Street Park Playground in Park Slope, Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Conrad McRae always knew that basketball would be a positive vehicle to help many Brooklyn youth; he made sure to have a community family component instituted within the league, including the Conrad McRae annual Family Day which is sponsored by the league; in addition, a Student Athlete Development Series and Job Training/Life Skill Program was formed; these accomplishments are all a testament to Conrad's vision and legacy; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who have enhanced the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned our recognition and applause; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to the memory of Conrad McRae upon the occasion of renaming the basketball courts at Dean Street Playground in his honor on Sunday, August 29, 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Anton Marchand, President, Conrad McRae Youth League, and to

the family of Conrad McRae.