

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Howard Dodson upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals who devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Howard Dodson upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture located in Harlem, New York; and

WHEREAS, Howard Dodson, Chief of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library since 1984, is being acknowledged for his long-standing tenure with the organization; he is a specialist in African-American history and a noted lecturer, educator and consultant; and

WHEREAS, Earning his B.S. degree in 1961 at West Chester State College and graduating from Villanova University in 1964, Howard Dodson completed the requirements for an ABD at the University of California at Berkeley in 1974; he has been awarded Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters by the following: Widener University in 1987; Adelphi University in May of 2004; West Chester University of Pennsylvania in June of 2005; The City College of New York in June of 2006, and an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Villanova University in May of 2007; and

WHEREAS, Prior to assuming his position at the Schomburg Center, Howard Dodson served as a consultant in the Office of the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C. from 1979-1982; he also served in a number of capacities from 1970-1979 at the Institute of the Black World in Atlanta, Georgia, including Executive Director from 1974-1979; and

WHEREAS, Before joining the Institute, Mr. Dodson was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador from 1964-1966, and a national Peace Corps office staff member from 1966-1969, including the positions of Deputy Director of Recruiting and Director of Minority and Specialized Recruiting; and

WHEREAS, Howard Dodson has taught at California State College at Haywood, Emory University, Shaw University, the City University of New York, and Columbia University; under his leadership, the Schomburg Center has developed into the world's most comprehensive public research library devoted exclusively to documenting and interpreting African Diaspora and African history and culture; and

WHEREAS, During Howard Dodson's tenure, the Center's collections have more than doubled, totaling over 10 million items; users have increased from 40,000 to over 125,000 annually; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, Howard Dodson completed a large capital campaign; in 1991, he completed a major physical development program which renovated the original Schomburg Center building and created the Langston Hughes Auditorium; more recently, he completed a historic 75th Anniversary Capital Campaign, raising a significant amount; and

WHEREAS, Howard Dodson established a Scholars-in-Residence program, which has provided six-month and one-year fellowships for the more than 108 scholars who have been provided for over the last twenty years; his aggressive educational and cultural programming agenda produces and presents 50 to 75 events annually as well as four to six exhibitions; and

WHEREAS, Howard Dodson has published ten books as well as articles and

essays in newspapers, exhibition catalogs and professional journals; his most recent publication is BECOMING AMERICAN: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN JOURNEY (Sterling Publishing, Inc., 2009); his other publications include IN MOTION: THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN MIGRATION EXPERIENCE (National Geographic Press, 2005), JUBILEE: THE EMERGENCE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE (National Geographic Press, 2002) and THE BLACK NEW YORKERS: FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY (Wiley, 2000); and

WHEREAS, Howard Dodson has curated exhibitions on such diverse themes as "Censorship and Black America" and "Lest We Forget: The Triumph Over Slavery," and has organized and produced major performing arts events at Carnegie Hall and the Schubert and Majestic theaters on Broadway; most recently, he conceived, organized and directed the development of a major website entitled In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience; and

WHEREAS, Howard Dodson served as Chair of the Federal Steering Committee on the African Burial Ground; he was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, serving on its executive committee and as Chair of its Cultural Arts Committee; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Howard Dodson was director of the research study to establish The New York State Freedom Trail and was a member of the President's Commission on the National Museum of African American History and Culture; he was also a former member of the Board of Directors of the Apollo Theater and now currently serves on the Scientific and Technical Committee of the UNESCO Slave Route Project; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to Harlem, New York City, the State of New York and the world, Howard Dodson's distinguished record merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Howard Dodson upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Howard Dodson, Chief, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library.