

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 726 on February 27, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those noteworthy organizations within the State of New York whose focus and intent have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 726, which feted its 100th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, February 27, 2016, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island, New York; and

WHEREAS, Chartered on August 11, 1916, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), Local 726, was organized by C. Howard Severs, a Conductor and President of Local 540 in Trenton, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Contrary to the events of the time, when transit workers in other boroughs of New York City had just concluded a highly contentious strike, ATU Local 726 appeared to be getting along and indications were that the men and the Company would work in harmony in the future; and

WHEREAS, In 1916, the nonunion Staten Island street car workers went on strike with ATU's organized New York transit workers; the transit workers' goal was organization, and they achieved their goal with the Richmond Light and Rail Company; and

WHEREAS, During that same year, the New York City Locals signed an agreement with the New York Railways Company, later discovering that the New York Railways Company was forcing its workers to sign a "master and servant" agreement; and

WHEREAS, Since members of the newly organized Local 726 worked for the Richmond Light and Rail Company, not the New York Railways Company, they continued working; today, under the luminous direction of President, Daniel Cassella, they are still working 100 years later; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body commends the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 726, for its excellence and for its commitment and contributions to the community it has so ably served for the past 100 years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 726, fully confident that it will continue to positively impact the community it serves for many years to come; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Daniel Cassella, President, Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 726, Staten Island, New York.