

**BY:** Senator MONTGOMERY

**COMMENDING** the YWCA of Brooklyn upon the occasion of celebrating its 130th Anniversary

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom 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 organizations and individuals who would 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 commend the YWCA of Brooklyn upon the occasion of celebrating its 130th Anniversary at an Event on Thursday, May 10, 2018, in the Roulette Theater in Brooklyn, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** For 130 years, the YWCA of Brooklyn has strived to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all; and

**WHEREAS,** Founded in 1888, the YWCA of Brooklyn is the only YWCA in the borough of Brooklyn, and is also one of the oldest in New York State; each year a significant amount of women, men, and children take advantage of a broad mix of programs, including: health and wellness programs, leadership and education, affordable housing for single women, and immigrant services; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1943, the YWCA of Brooklyn became the first YWCA in the country to racially integrate its program and in 1946, its residence hall for women was formally desegregated; this proud tradition of integration and commitment continues to this day; and

**WHEREAS,** The YWCA of Brooklyn offers programs and services to meet the needs of the women, men and children of the community; it encourages all to participate, yet remains true to its mission of empowering women and girls, with particular focus on gender equity and racial justice; and

**WHEREAS,** The YWCA Brooklyn furthers its mission by providing affordable, safe, permanent, housing for over 300 women; a college access program for low-income girls of color; mentoring for women entrepreneurs; social justice advocacy, education and activism; and a community center that provides free and subsidized event space and meeting space for over 60 nonprofit and civic partners in the Brooklyn community; and

**WHEREAS,** The YWCA of Brooklyn is a leading advocate for racial justice and gender equality in New York State, advancing policies in the areas of education reform, pay equity, domestic violence, criminal justice and access to comprehensive health care; and

**WHEREAS,** The YWCA of Brooklyn provides 310 affordable, safe, permanent housing units for low-income and formerly homeless women, most of whom are survivors of domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS,** The YWCA of Brooklyn's Leadership and College Access Program prepares over 300 low-income girls of color for academic success and professional careers; and

**WHEREAS,** The YWCA of Brooklyn also provides a welcoming gathering place for community meetings, events and parties; it has served a racially and economically diverse population since its inception, and today, it continues to fight for social justice; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those organizations which enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the YWCA of Brooklyn upon the occasion of celebrating its 130th Anniversary; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the YWCA of Brooklyn.