

BY: Senator KAVANAGH

COMMEMORATING the Asian American community's celebration of the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Rat, on January 25, 2020

WHEREAS, With due cause and proper resolve, this legislative body honors the Asian-American community of the State of New York as it celebrates the Lunar New Year in the Year of the Rat, beginning on January 25, 2020; and

WHEREAS, According to legend, the Jade Emperor held a race to determine the 12 animals to represent the zodiac with the cyclical order determined by their finishing position; and

WHEREAS, It is said that people take on characteristics based upon the animal of their birth year, and those born in the Year of the Rat are said to be characterized by their intelligence and charm, as well as their optimistic and ambitious nature; and

WHEREAS, The Lunar New Year is the most significant and popular Asian festival and exemplifies the many diverse traditions of Asian-Americans; and

WHEREAS, Asian-Americans across the State will wear red, light firecrackers and make other loud noises, in accord with ancient legend in which such activities were thought to chase away the wild beast Nian, who would attack ancient villages at the outset of the New Year; and

WHEREAS, It is cause for great celebration in the Asian-American community that public schools in New York City now recognize the Lunar New Year as a holiday, acknowledging the festival's widespread observance across the city; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Asian-American community's celebration of the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Rat, on January 25, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to distinguished members of the Asian-American community.