

BY: Senator STAVISKY

CONGRATULATING Gene Russianoff upon the occasion of his retirement after more than four decades of dedicated service to the New York Public Interest Group

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, In the course of the evolving development of this Empire State, when the ingredients of shared concern and responsive endeavor combine in commitment to community, there emerge among the distinguished citizenry of the State of New York, certain individuals who warrant special recognition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Gene Russianoff upon the occasion of his retirement after more than four decades of dedicated service to the New York Public Interest Group (NYPIRG); and

WHEREAS, For the past 40 years, Gene Russianoff rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to NYPIRG; and

WHEREAS, After growing up in the areas of Brighton Beach and Sheepshead Bay, Gene Russianoff graduated from Brooklyn College before obtaining his degree at Harvard Law School in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Despite the lucrative career he could have enjoyed as a graduate of Harvard Law School, Gene Russianoff has devoted more than four decades to NYPIRG, the Straphangers Campaign, and protecting the public's interest; and

WHEREAS, As NYPIRG Senior Attorney and head of the Straphangers Campaign, Gene Russianoff was a respected leader and advocate who inspired and mentored hundreds of college students and NYPIRG staff; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious career, Gene Russianoff achieved many things, including helping to reform the structure of the government of the City of New York through the creation of a voluntary system of public financing which is now considered a model of reform across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he was instrumental in the establishment of an Independent Budget Office, a non-partisan, independent watchdog of the City's finances, and a voter's guide to elections; and

WHEREAS, Gene Russianoff has been the proud recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including the 1994 Public Service Achievement Award from the National Board of Common Cause and the 2010 Distinguished Achievement Award from the Brooklyn College Alumni Association; he was

also designated a Charles H. Revson Fellow at Columbia University in 1983; and

WHEREAS, During his renowned tenure with the New York Public Interest Group (NYPIRG), Gene Russianoff truly earned the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Gene Russianoff upon the occasion of his retirement after more than four decades of dedicated service to the New York Public Interest Group, and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gene Russianoff and the New York Public Interest Group.