

BY: Senator HINCHEY

MOURNING the death of Michael Lang, co-creator of the Woodstock Music & Art Fair, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, Michael Lang of Brooklyn and Woodstock, New York, died on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at the age of 77; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lang was instrumental in sparking the international movement that transformed generations of young people who became forever connected through music, art, and spirituality; and

WHEREAS, The Woodstock Music & Art Fair, August 15-17, 1969, also billed as "three days of peace and music," is considered the most famous music festival in the world, produced by Michael Lang and his partners Artie Kornfeld, Joel Rosenman and John Roberts; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lang, at the age of 24, and his Woodstock ventures partners, planned the transformative 1969 festival on Max Yasgur's sprawling dairy farm in Bethel, New York, where more than half a million attendees were captivated by extraordinary performances from musical artists including Janis Joplin, The Jefferson Airplane, Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Richie Havens, Santana and more; and

WHEREAS, Although anticipating 100,000 attendees, the total number of attendees who traveled to the festival ended up at more than 450,000 fans, closing the New York State Thruway along the way; and

WHEREAS, Battling weather issues, late venue changes, and far more attendees than anticipated and under the able leadership of Michael Lang, Woodstock's free-wheeling ethos of "peace, love and music" endured, confirming the festival as the defining moment in the decade's countercultural movement; and

WHEREAS, The Woodstock Music Festival singularly defined a global generation, across all backgrounds, whose many adherents would go on to become future activists, iconic musicians, and cultural pioneers; and

WHEREAS, Featured prominently in the Academy Award-winning 1970 documentary "Woodstock", often seen riding across the festival grounds on his motorcycle, Michael Lang became one of the more recognizable faces behind the vast cultural change that followed the festival; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lang continued to inspire new generations, producing the extraordinary 1989 East Berlin Music Festival celebrating the fall of the Berlin wall, and with his Woodstock ventures partners, produced Woodstock '94 in Saugerties, New York, and Woodstock '99 in Rome, New York, and as head of the Michael Lang Organization, he developed a recording studio and managed prominent international musical artists; and

WHEREAS, Born in Brooklyn, New York, Michael Lang briefly attended New York University before moving to Florida; it was there he got the idea for Woodstock after organizing the Miami Pop Festival in 1968, featuring Jimi Hendrix as the headliner; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lang's commitment to excellence, his spirit of humanity, and passion for music, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Michael Lang is survived by his wife, Tamara; his sons, Harry and Laszlo; three daughters, Lari Ann, Shala and Molly, and his sister Iris Brest; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Michael Lang leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as an inspiring memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Michael Lang, and to express its deepest condolences to his family and friends; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Michael Lang.