

**BY:** Senator ADDABBO

**COMMENDING** Brian Walter and the Queens Covid Remembrance Day Committee upon the occasion of holding the Queens Covid Remembrance Day on May 1, 2021

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize the dedication and achievements of constituents and organizations on bringing communities together to recognize and honor those who have suffered from COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Brian Walter and the Queens Covid Remembrance Day Committee upon the occasion of holding the Queens Covid Remembrance Day, a day of solemn reflection for those lost to COVID-19, on Saturday, May 1, 2021, at the Forest Park Bandshell; and

**WHEREAS,** The Queens Covid Remembrance Day will represent both family members and victims of COVID-19 from Queens, New York, who have been tragically impacted by this life-threatening and devastating pandemic; and

**WHEREAS,** On this day, Brian Walter and members of the Queens Covid Remembrance Day Committee will join together with the many other family members grieving the loss of their loved ones, vowing they will not be forgotten; as a physical representation of loss, there will be 400 empty park benches, each one adorned with an artist's rendition of an actual Queens resident who died of COVID-19 ; these images will be custom made by the "Faces of COVID Victims" project; and

**WHEREAS,** To remember and honor COVID-19 victims from around the world, yellow hearts bearing the names of lost loved ones will surround the bandshell; these will be generously supplied by The Yellow Heart Memorial; and

**WHEREAS,** The Floral Hearts Project will be creating an original art piece, featuring fresh flowers donated by 1-800-Flowers and designed by Kristina Libby; this will be a one-of-a-kind creation to honor all those lost to COVID-19 and those left behind to mourn their absence; and

**WHEREAS,** A tribute to the essential and frontline workers will be held to honor all those who spent tireless hours caring for and providing services to the Queens community; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition, there will be a reflecting area and art display, as well as a ceremony which will include an interfaith prayer, and words of remembrance from Queens residents who lost loved ones to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS,** Our society is deeply saddened at the loss of neighbors,

family members, and friends but grateful for the opportunity to come together as a community and reflect upon the lives lost to this horrific pandemic; and

**WHEREAS,** It is a testament to the fortitude and dedication of family members such as Brian Walter and the members of the Queens Covid Remembrance Day Committee to organize in remembrance of the lives lost during this pandemic as a way of remembering their lives and enriching the community's spirit in both good times and bad; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Brian Walter and the Queens Covid Remembrance Day Committee upon the occasion of holding the Queens Covid Remembrance Day on May 1, 2021; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Queens Covid Remembrance Day Committee.