

BY: Senator SERRANO

MOURNING the death of former Assemblymember and Bronx Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene, renowned public servant and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those individuals of outstanding purpose whose lives were committed to public service and the pursuit of excellence in the conduct of the legislative process in this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Aurelia Greene of the Bronx, New York, died on Saturday, May 8, 2021, at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS, Born in the Bronx, Aurelia Greene graduated from the former Central Commercial High School in Manhattan; later, she attended Livingston College at Rutgers University where she majored in Community Development, and then entered politics; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, Aurelia Greene was first elected to the New York State Assembly to represent the 77th District, which includes the communities of Highbridge, Claremont, East/West Concourse and Morris Heights; and

WHEREAS, For the next 27 years, Assemblymember Aurelia Greene applied her urban planning skills and knowledge of her community to negotiate and sponsor legislation bettering the South Bronx by strengthening affordable housing and healthcare, quality education, senior and youth services and economic development; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her tenure, this trailblazing legislator diligently worked to give lasting voice to the underrepresented; upon joining the Assembly, Aurelia Greene became a founding member of the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators, Inc., as well as The Women's Caucus, and went on to become the first woman to chair the Banking Committee; in 2006, she was elevated to serve as the first African American Speaker Pro Tempore of the New York State Assembly; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, Assemblymember Aurelia Greene was awarded a gold helmet by the New York State Head Injury Association for her legislation improving bicycle safety; she authored the landmark Motor Vehicle Leasing Act, sponsored the Interstate Bank Branching & ATM Safety Act of 1996, and was instrumental in driving legislation to prohibit predatory lending practices and protect consumers against abuses in the subprime lending market, which became law in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Following her historic time in the New York State Legislature, and after becoming the longest serving Member of the Assembly in Bronx County and ascending to the Chair of the State Assembly's Bronx Delegation, Aurelia Greene assumed the role of Deputy

Bronx Borough President in 2009; in this capacity, she continued to apply her expertise and compassion as a stabilizing force in the betterment of the Bronx through her retirement from public service in 2017; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, Aurelia Greene was honored with a Key to the Bronx marking her 50 years of outstanding public service to her community; and

WHEREAS, Aurelia Greene's commitment to community carried well beyond her professional role; a woman of faith, she was a leader at Bronx Christian Charismatic Prayer Fellowship where she managed church finances, taught Sunday school, organized events and ministered to parishioners; and

WHEREAS, Aurelia Greene also taught at Antioch College and lectured at numerous universities and colleges in the New York City area; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her husband, Reverend Jerome A. Greene, Aurelia Greene is survived by one daughter, Rhonda; one son, Russell; five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, as well as numerous other family members, friends and former constituents who will long cherish her memory; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her incredible life and through her numerous good deeds, Aurelia Greene has made a positive impact and touched the lives of many; she mentored many former students, interns and fellow elected officials, and served as a role model for others to follow in her footsteps; and

WHEREAS, A true icon and pioneer in Bronx politics, Aurelia Greene will forever be remembered as a committed, compassionate, caring, consistent, dedicated and trusted public servant; she always stayed the course, fought the good fight and always remained true to the people of the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, Aurelia Greene's legacy will live on in all of those who were inspired by her achievements and her commitment to serving our communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of former Assemblymember and Bronx Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene, renowned public servant and devoted member of her community, and to express its deepest condolences to her family; and be it further

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