Senate Resolution No. 481

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its Annual EmpoWOMENt forum on March 11, 2023

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals and organizations it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its Annual EmpoWOMENt forum on Saturday, March 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. was organized on November 12, 1922, in Indianapolis, Indiana, by seven young educators, Mary Lou Allison Gardner Little, Dorothy Hanley Whiteside, Vivian Irene White Marbury, Nannie Mae Gahn Johnson, Hattie Mae Annette Dulin Redford, Bessie Mae Downey Rhoades Martin, and Cubena McClure; and

WHEREAS, The group became an incorporated national collegiate sorority on December 30, 1929, when a charter was granted to the Alpha chapter at Butler University; since its inception, the dynamic women of Sigma Gamma Rho have built and sustained a well-known and well-respected reputation for leading positive change to help uplift the community through sisterhood, leadership, and service; and

WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho has welcomed more than 100,000 collegiate and professional women from every profession, and has more than 500 chapters in the United States, Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Germany, South Korea, United States Virgin Islands, and the United Arab Emirates; and

WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho's commitment to service is expressed in its slogan, "Greater Service, Greater Progress."; the sorority has a proud history of providing positive and proactive community outreach nationally and internationally through various programs, partnerships, and sponsorships which represent their commitment to promoting the greater good in education, service, and leadership development; and

WHEREAS, The Women's Wellness Initiative is a consolidated effort that allows chapters to focus on health issues that impact women, specifically, women of color; acceptable educational and programmatic efforts under this Initiative include, but are not limited to, Breast Cancer Awareness, Intimate and Domestic Violence, Heart Health, Diabetes Health, and Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, Sigma Gamma Rho has strived to encourage women to maintain a healthy lifestyle and minimize health risks; empower women to make informed decisions about their physical, mental, and emotional health; and ensure there is a representative number of African American women in health studies; and

WHEREAS, The success of Sigma Gamma Rho is in direct correlation to the efforts of its staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the institution and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its Annual EmpoWOMENt forum on March 11, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.