Assembly Resolution No. 2000

BY: M. of A. Alvarez

COMMENDING the Bronx Zoo upon the occasion of kicking off its 125th Anniversary celebration on April 18, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the continuing welfare of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched and reliably served by the purposeful endeavors of those organizations within our midst that strive to enhance the quality of life in their communities by promoting wildlife conservation, science, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Bronx Zoo upon the occasion of kicking off its 125th Anniversary celebration on Thursday, April 18, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Planned festivities to celebrate this momentous occasion include the opening of "Animal Chronicles," an immersive new exhibit which leads visitors through a quarter-mile ADA-accessible walking trail that includes 68 eco-sculptures displayed across 13 scenes; each scene tells the tale of how the zoo became a leader in caring for animals, saving endangered species, designing exhibits that connect people to nature, and protecting wildlife around the world; and

WHEREAS, This opening event will feature an exclusive preview of the new exhibit and unveil a series of themed weekend activities celebrating the Zoo's success stories in saving species over the past 125 years; all will get a preview of weekend entertainment elements including music, dance performances, and wildlife puppetry; and

WHEREAS, The Bronx Zoo, located on 265 acres of hardwood forest in the Bronx, New York, opened on November 8, 1899; it is world-renowned for its leadership in the areas of animal welfare, husbandry, veterinary care, education, science, and conservation; and

WHEREAS, The zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and is the flagship park of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) which manages the world's largest network of urban wildlife parks including the Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, Queens Zoo, and New York Aquarium; and

WHEREAS, The curators and animal care staff at the Bronx Zoo work passionately and unrelentingly to save, propagate, and sustain populations of threatened and endangered species; this work is paramount to maintaining biodiversity as these species often have an effect on soil formation, decomposition, water filtration and flow, pollination, pest control, climate regulation, and various other environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, The Bronx Zoo has educated and inspired more than 400

million visitors at its zoos and aquarium since its opening and host approximately 4 million guests at its parks each year, including about a half-million students annually; and

WHEREAS, The Bronx Zoo is the largest youth employer in the borough of the Bronx, providing opportunities and help to transform lives in one of the most under-served communities in the nation; the Bronx Zoo is the subject of "THE ZOO," a docuseries aired world-wide on Animal Planet; and

WHEREAS, The Bronx Zoo, with over 125 years of proud history and purposeful endeavors, remains today as a preeminent example of our understanding of, and appreciation for, the precious wildlife which comprise the bounty of nature and the beauty of our environment; this zoo has brought untold delight and useful knowledge to millions of citizens and visitors from abroad; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Bronx Zoo upon the occasion of kicking off its 125th Anniversary celebration on April 18, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Bronx Zoo.