

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMEMORATING the Wyckoff House Museum's 2026 Pinkster Celebration on May 16, 2026, and recognizing the enduring cultural and historical significance of Pinkster in New York State

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commemorate events and institutions that preserve, honor, and promote the diverse cultural histories and traditions that have shaped the State of New York and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, this Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the Wyckoff House Museum's 2026 Pinkster Celebration, taking place on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at the historic Wyckoff House Museum in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Pinkster is recognized as one of the oldest African American celebrations in the United States, rooted in African cultural traditions and historically observed by enslaved and free Africans in New Netherland and throughout the Hudson Valley during the Dutch Pentecost season; and

WHEREAS, During the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, Pinkster provided enslaved Africans with a rare and meaningful opportunity for rest, family reunification, artistic expression, spiritual observance, music, dance, storytelling, and the preservation of African cultural practices and communal traditions; and

WHEREAS, Over time, Pinkster evolved into a powerful symbol of African resilience, resistance, cultural continuity, and collective joy, occupying an important place in the historical and cultural development of New York State and the broader African American experience; and

WHEREAS, The Wyckoff House Museum, recognized as the oldest surviving structure in New York City and an important site of historical education and preservation, has played a vital role in reviving and elevating public awareness of Pinkster through educational programming, community engagement, and cultural celebration; and

WHEREAS, The 2026 Pinkster Celebration will feature storytelling, music, performances, and interactive cultural activities designed to educate attendees about the history of Pinkster and its enduring legacy, while fostering intergenerational learning, community connection, and appreciation for the diverse cultural heritage of New York; and

WHEREAS, Through its continued stewardship of this important tradition, the Wyckoff House Museum affirms the importance of preserving African diasporic history, amplifying historically underrepresented voices, and creating inclusive public spaces for cultural reflection and celebration; and

WHEREAS, The observance of Pinkster offers all New Yorkers an opportunity to reflect upon the resilience, creativity, and enduring contributions of African Americans to the civic, cultural, and moral fabric of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Wyckoff House Museum's 2026 Pinkster Celebration on May 16, 2026, and to recognize the historical and cultural significance of Pinkster as an enduring symbol of African American resilience, heritage, and community in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the leadership of the Wyckoff House Museum as an expression of the esteem and gratitude of this Legislative Body for its continued dedication to historical preservation, cultural education, and community engagement.