

BY: Senator COMRIE

CONGRATULATING Tina Charles upon the occasion of her retirement from professional basketball and recognizing her extraordinary contributions to the people of the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished individuals whose exceptional achievements, leadership, and service have brought pride and distinction to the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body pauses to congratulate Tina Charles upon the occasion of her retirement from professional basketball in 2026, after a legendary career marked by athletic excellence, humanitarian leadership, and steadfast service to her community; and

WHEREAS, Tina Charles is one of the most accomplished and influential athletes in the history of women's basketball and a proud native New Yorker whose career has brought distinction to the State of New York, the City of New York, and the Borough of Queens; and

WHEREAS, Born on December 5, 1988, in Jamaica, Queens, Tina Charles emerged as a basketball prodigy at Christ the King High School, where she became one of the most highly recruited players in the Nation; her remarkable talent, leadership, and dedication to excellence quickly established her as a generational athlete and role model for young people across New York State; and

WHEREAS, Tina Charles continued her academic and athletic career at University of Connecticut, where she helped lead the Huskies women's basketball program to two undefeated NCAA National Championships in 2009 and 2010; during her collegiate career, she earned numerous national honors, including the Naismith College Player of the Year Award and the John R. Wooden Award, cementing her place among the greatest players in collegiate basketball history; and

WHEREAS, Following her historic collegiate career, Tina Charles was selected first overall in the 2010 WNBA Draft by the Connecticut Sun; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of a distinguished professional career spanning more than a decade, Tina Charles became one of the most dominant players in the history of the Women's National Basketball Association, earning league honors including WNBA Rookie of the Year in 2010, WNBA Most Valuable Player in 2012, multiple All-WNBA selections, and numerous WNBA All-Star appearances; and

WHEREAS, Tina Charles concluded her career as the WNBA's all-time leading rebounder and one of the league's all-time leading scorers,

achievements which place her among the greatest athletes ever to compete in professional basketball; and

WHEREAS, For many New Yorkers, Tina Charles is most closely associated with her years starring for the New York Liberty, where she became the face of professional women's basketball in New York City; her leadership on the court helped elevate the Liberty franchise and inspired a new generation of girls and young athletes throughout the five boroughs and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Tina Charles consistently represented New York with pride, professionalism, and excellence, serving as both a sports icon and community ambassador; and

WHEREAS, Internationally, Tina Charles represented the United States Women's National Basketball Team with extraordinary distinction, winning three Olympic gold medals and multiple FIBA World Championship titles, thereby helping maintain the Nation's longstanding dominance in international women's basketball and bringing pride to Americans and New Yorkers alike; and

WHEREAS, Beyond basketball, Tina Charles has distinguished herself through extraordinary humanitarian and charitable efforts; in 2013, she founded the Hohey's Heart Foundation in memory of her late aunt, Maureen "Hohey" Vaz, to raise awareness about sudden cardiac arrest and provide Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), CPR education, and health resources to schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, Through the Hohey's Heart Foundation, hundreds of AED devices have been distributed nationwide, including throughout New York City communities, helping save lives and expand access to emergency health resources; and

WHEREAS, Tina Charles also donated substantial portions of her professional salary to charitable causes and funded educational and community initiatives both domestically and internationally; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of her extraordinary community service and advocacy, Tina Charles received the WNBA Dawn Staley Community Leadership Award on multiple occasions; her work has focused not only on public health and youth empowerment, but also on social justice, civic engagement, and expanding opportunities for underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, In 2026, Tina Charles announced her retirement from professional basketball, concluding a legendary career defined by excellence, perseverance, integrity, and service; and

WHEREAS, Tina Charles' impact extends far beyond statistics and championships; she has become a trailblazer for women's sports, an inspiration to countless young athletes, and a proud representative of Queens and New York State on the global stage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor and recognize Tina Charles for her extraordinary athletic achievements, her steadfast commitment to community service, and her

enduring contributions to the people of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Tina Charles as a token of the esteem and gratitude in which she is held by the people and the State of New York.