

**BY:** Senator PARKER

**COMMENDING** the Caribbean American Social Workers Association upon the occasion of its Annual Caribbean Heritage Month Celebration on June 18, 2026

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those distinguished organizations whose steadfast commitment to advocacy, empowerment, and community service continues to enrich the lives of individuals and families throughout the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Caribbean American Social Workers Association upon the occasion of its Annual Caribbean Heritage Month Celebration, to be held on June 18, 2026; and

**WHEREAS,** Caribbean Heritage Month serves as a meaningful opportunity to celebrate the enduring contributions of Caribbean people and Caribbean-Americans whose labor, culture, intellect, and leadership have profoundly shaped the social, economic, civic, and cultural fabric of New York State and the nation; and

**WHEREAS,** The Caribbean American Social Workers Association was founded through the vision and dedication of Ismay Griffith, LCSW, and Elaine Reid, LCSW, whose commitment to culturally responsive social work and community empowerment established a foundation rooted in advocacy, compassion, and service to Caribbean communities throughout New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Under the leadership of President N. Melissa Harding, LMSW, and Vice President Cheryl-Anne Clarke, MSW, the organization continues to expand its mission of supporting vulnerable populations, promoting mental wellness, advancing equity, and strengthening Caribbean-American families through education, outreach, mentorship, and professional collaboration; and

**WHEREAS,** Through the tireless efforts of its members and supporters, the organization has advanced the vital mission of promoting access to culturally competent social services while uplifting immigrant and underserved communities with dignity, care, and respect; and

**WHEREAS,** Social workers serve as essential pillars within society, often standing at the forefront of crisis intervention, youth development, elder care, mental health advocacy, and community empowerment, providing hope, guidance, and compassion to individuals and families navigating life's challenges; and

**WHEREAS,** The Annual Caribbean Heritage Month Celebration not only honors the rich history and traditions of the Caribbean diaspora, but also recognizes the extraordinary impact of professionals and community

leaders whose work continues to strengthen neighborhoods and inspire future generations; and

**WHEREAS,** The State of New York is home to one of the largest and most vibrant Caribbean populations in the United States, and the contributions of Caribbean-American social workers have been instrumental in advancing justice, opportunity, and human dignity throughout our communities; and

**WHEREAS,** It is fitting and proper that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize the Caribbean American Social Workers Association for its outstanding commitment to service, cultural preservation, and community advancement; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Caribbean American Social Workers Association upon the occasion of its Annual Caribbean Heritage Month Celebration on June 18, 2026, and to extend sincere appreciation for its enduring contributions to the Caribbean-American community and the people of the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the leadership of the Caribbean American Social Workers Association as a token of the esteem in which it is held.