

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING the New York Foundling's Developmental Disabilities Division upon the occasion of hosting the Dan Washington, Jr., Memorial Basketball Tournament

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose enduring commitment to the dignity, inclusion, and joy of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities has enriched the civic life of 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 New York Foundling's Developmental Disabilities Division upon the occasion of hosting the Dan Washington, Jr., Memorial Basketball Tournament on Thursday, June 4, 2026; and

WHEREAS, The New York Foundling was established in 1869 by three Sisters of Charity who answered the call of New York City's most vulnerable children and families, and in the more than 155 years since its founding, has grown into one of the largest and most respected human service organizations in the New York metropolitan area, now serving more than 30,000 people each year through programs spanning child welfare, developmental disabilities, education, health and behavioral health, and juvenile and criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, The Foundling's Developmental Disabilities Division provides comprehensive services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, guided always by the conviction that every person deserves to be seen, valued, and celebrated and that the measure of a community is found not only in the way it treats its most vulnerable members but also whether it creates space for them to thrive, compete, connect, and belong; and

WHEREAS, The Dan Washington, Jr., Memorial Basketball Tournament is named in loving honor of Dan Washington, Jr., a cherished participant in the Foundling's Developmental Disabilities programs whose spirit, enthusiasm, and presence left a lasting mark on all who knew him; in naming this tournament in his memory, the Foundling affirms that the individuals it serves are not incidental to its mission but are the very heart of it and that their lives, their joy, and their legacy are worthy of celebration and remembrance; and

WHEREAS, The tournament brings together participants from the Foundling's Developmental Disabilities Division for a day of competitive basketball, cheerleading, and skills showcases, providing the men and women who participate the opportunity to do what every athlete wants: to compete, to be cheered, to feel the thrill of the game, and to be surrounded by a community that believes in their abilities and celebrates their achievements without reservation; and

WHEREAS, Events, such as this tournament, embody a fundamental truth that this Legislative Body affirms without hesitation: that inclusion is not charity, that the participation of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the full life of their communities is not a gift to be bestowed but a right to be upheld, and that every person, regardless of disability, deserves access to the joy, the competition, and the community that athletics can provide; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proudly moved to honor the New York Foundling, its Developmental Disabilities Division, staff, volunteers, participants, and the memory of Dan Washington, Jr., whose name graces this tournament as a reminder that every life touched by this organization matters deeply and endures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the New York Foundling's Developmental Disabilities Division, upon the occasion of hosting the Dan Washington, Jr., Memorial Basketball Tournament in New York City on June 4, 2026, and to extend congratulations to all participants, coaches, volunteers, and supporters who make this tournament a celebration worthy of Dan Washington, Jr.'s memory; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the leadership, staff, and participants of the New York Foundling's Developmental Disabilities Division in recognition of their steadfast commitment to the dignity, inclusion, and full participation of every person they serve.