Senate Resolution No. 416

BY: Senator PARKER

HONORING Cristina Contreras upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visionary Awards Gala on March 9, 2025

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend individuals whose leadership, dedication, and service have transformed communities and improved lives; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Cristina Contreras upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visionary Awards Gala, to be held on Sunday, March 9, 2025, in celebration of Women's History Month under the theme "Women of Destiny"; and

WHEREAS, Born in the Dominican Republic, Cristina Contreras is a visionary healthcare leader with nearly three decades of experience in hospital administration, clinical operations, and executive management, tirelessly working to improve healthcare access and quality for underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, Cristina Contreras began her career as a caseworker, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to patient advocacy and community service, which led to a steady rise through the ranks of New York City Health + Hospitals, the nation's largest municipal healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, In 2024, Cristina Contreras was appointed Chief Executive Officer of NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln, located in the South Bronx, after previously serving as Chief Executive Officer of NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan from 2021 to 2024; in these roles, she expanded access to care, strengthened hospital operations, recruited and mentored outstanding talent, and advanced programs of excellence; and

WHEREAS, A champion of innovation, operational excellence, and strategic collaboration, Cristina Contreras is widely recognized for creating an organizational culture rooted in authenticity, kindness, and transparency, ensuring that staff well-being translates to better patient outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Cristina Contreras' passion for public service and dedication to healthcare equity have earned her numerous accolades, including recognition on the City & State Power Players List, the Government Service Leadership Award by 100 Hispanic Women National, and the Hero of Hope and Champion of Inclusion Award by the NYC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Beyond her role as a healthcare executive, Cristina Contreras is deeply involved in community leadership, serving as Chair

of the National Dominican Day Parade since 2021, as well as on the Board of the NY Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and the Board of Directors of R.A.I.N. Total Care, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong advocate for education and professional development, Cristina Contreras holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Herbert H. Lehman College, a Master's degree in Social Work from Fordham University, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Baruch College; in 2023, she was awarded the New York College of Podiatric Medicine's honorary degree of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to healthcare and public service; and

WHEREAS, Cristina Contreras exemplifies the spirit of leadership, resilience, and service, using her expertise to uplift communities, advocate for the underserved, and inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Cristina Contreras upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visionary Awards Gala, commending her for her unparalleled contributions to healthcare, leadership, and community service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Cristina Contreras.