Assembly Resolution No. 1459

BY: M. of A. Bichotte Hermelyn

COMMENDING the West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) upon the occasion of hosting its 2026 Annual West Indian Day Carnival Parade on September 7, 2026

WHEREAS, The West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) was established in 1967 with the mission to promote, develop, and celebrate Caribbean culture, heritage, and traditions through artistic and educational programming; and

WHEREAS, WIADCA organizes the Annual West Indian Day Carnival Parade, held the first Monday in September, as one of the largest Caribbean and most significant cultural celebrations in the world, drawing millions of attendees annually to the streets of Brooklyn, New York, along Eastern Parkway for its iconic Labor Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, The Annual West Indian Day Carnival Parade stands as a cultural cornerstone that brings together an array of artists and performers across New York and beyond, featuring the rich and diverse cultural traditions of music, dance, cuisine, and creativity brought from the Caribbean diaspora; and

WHEREAS, WIADCA's events displays a variety of Caribbean art forms, including calypso, soca, reggae, steel pan, and traditional mas (masquerade), preserving these cultural expressions for future generations while showcasing the community's many beautiful skills and talents; and

WHEREAS, The West Indian Day Carnival Parade significantly contributes to the local economy by supporting small businesses, tourism, and hospitality, while also strengthening community pride and multicultural awareness in New York City; and

WHEREAS, WIADCA plays a vital role in community development by providing youth and family programming, cultural education, and leadership opportunities to engage the next generation in the celebration of their heritage, while also supporting the most vulnerable by providing free hot meals, holiday season giveaways, scholarships, and more; and

WHEREAS, The parade promotes cross-cultural dialogue, civic engagement, and artistic expression, and provides a platform for Caribbean Americans to celebrate their identities and histories while making these communities feel welcome and embraced; and

WHEREAS, WIADCA further fosters unity and inclusion by inviting elected officials, advocacy organizations, and community leaders to march in the parade, further promoting community pride; and

WHEREAS, The organizers and community, including the West Indian

American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA), work tirelessly to ensure the safety, inclusivity, and success of the parade through partnerships with local leaders, law enforcement, city agencies, and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, WIADCA continues to honor and uplift diverse cultural traditions, and serves as a vital platform for youth empowerment, economic opportunity, public safety collaboration, and community leadership, all while strengthening the multicultural identity of Brooklyn and the State of New York; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) upon the occasion of hosting its Annual West Indian Day Carnival Parade on September 7, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA).