

## 2009-J4009

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 24th Anniversary of Sahara Restaurant, Brooklyn, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize illustrious culinary establishments which have positively impacted and substantially contributed to the vitality of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 24th Anniversary of Sahara Restaurant, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Early in 1986, the late Yahya Isikli, a former professional soccer player and restaurant owner, and his wife, Sahinde, originally from Mersin, Turkey, moved their family to Brooklyn after several intermediate stops in Germany, Canada, California and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Sahara Restaurant, founded by Yahya Isikli later in 1986, is run today by Mrs. Isikli and her son John and is one of the largest and most popular Mediterranean-style restaurants in New York City; and

WHEREAS, A Brooklyn landmark, Sahara Restaurant offers high quality food with exotic flavors and welcoming hospitality for up to 600 guests in its five dining rooms and beautiful outdoor dining area; and

WHEREAS, Sahara Restaurant has a proud tradition of being filled to capacity every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening, a tradition which began the first week of its opening in 1987 and which continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, On one of his many visits to Turkey to seek out additional recipes to supplement Sahara's menu, Yahya Isikli brought back the recipe for Chicken Gyro; Sahara Restaurant believes it was the first restaurant to serve this popular menu item in the United States; and

WHEREAS, A recent Zagat survey named Sahara Restaurant, located in Brooklyn's Gravesend area, the restaurant with the Best Turkish Food in

New York City, an accomplishment of which it may be justly proud; and WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges the success and acclaim of this exceptional restaurant and recognizes its many contributions to the Brooklyn community and economy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 24th Anniversary of Sahara Restaurant, Brooklyn, New York, fully confident that in the future it will continue to enjoy the same success and spirit which have characterized its past; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Isikli Family, proprietors of Sahara Restaurant, 2337 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11223.