

## 2009-J5048

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Ari Kagan upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition at the 44th Annual Dinner Dance of the United Progressive Club on May 6, 2010

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend community activist Ari Kagan upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition at the 44th Annual Dinner Dance of the United Progressive Club, to be held at The Rex Manor in Brooklyn, New York, on May 6, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Ari Kagan was born in the city of Minsk, now Belarus, in 1967; he graduated from the Journalism Department of the Lvov Military Political College in 1988 and went on to work as a reporter for many Russian military and civilian newspapers writing critically, during the Gorbachev era, of both the Soviet government and the Communist Party; and

WHEREAS, On May 24, 1993, Ari Kagan came to America with his family and, the very next day, made his way to the Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst and offered to work there as a volunteer; and

WHEREAS, Ari Kagan continued his education here, earning, in 1999, a degree in business administration, marketing and advertising from CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College with honors; and

WHEREAS, He has worked as a reporter for many local Russian language publications and was an active member of the board of the Independent Press Association of New York, now known as the New York Community Media Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Ari Kagan is currently a Senior Editor of the influential VECHORNIY NEW YORK weekly newspaper and a host of the popular weekly TV show "Here in America" on the Russian Television Network of America and of the morning "City News" program on Davidzon Radio, 620AM; and

WHEREAS, Ari Kagan is, in addition, a member of the boards of the American Brotherhood for Disabled People (ABRUD), United Association of East European Jewry, Brooklyn's Holocaust Memorial Committee, NASH JEW (New Americans Self Help Jewish Educational World), Council of Unity and Racial Equality (CURE) and several other non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, For the past 17 years, since he came to New York, Ari Kagan has, in addition, volunteered his time and expertise working on behalf of those in need and has helped many seniors, tenants, veterans, disabled people, underprivileged children, nursing home residents and immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Ari Kagan has been honored many times for his journalistic achievements and community involvement and, since February 2009, has been working as a Community Liaison for Congressman Michael McMahon who represents Staten Island, Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst, helping his constituents, especially immigrants; and

WHEREAS, With Ari Kagan throughout have been his wife, Bela, and their children, Yakov and Victoria, all of whom are proud to be part of his life and rejoice in his accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Ari Kagan has distinguished himself in his profession and in his community and truly merits the recognition of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Ari Kagan upon the occasion of his designation for special

recognition at the 44th Annual Dinner Dance of the United Progressive Club on May 6, 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ari Kagan.