

2011-J4233

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Lurita Brown for 20 years of successful ownership of the Clinton Hill Simply Art and Framing Gallery

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Lurita Brown for 20 years of successful ownership of the Clinton Hill Simply Art and Framing Gallery; and

WHEREAS, Known as New York City's oldest independently owned African-American custom and specialty picture framing gallery, Clinton Hill Simply Art and Framing Gallery (CHSAFG) is celebrating its 20th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Lurita "L.B." Brown has been a constant in a rapidly changing neighborhood since 1991 when she first opened her business, CHSAFG; now in her 20th year, she is a symbol of how a small business can withstand the challenging test of time; and

WHEREAS, Lurita Brown has the only small business in the area that still exists; all of her contemporary merchants, who entered the neighborhood with a specialty, are gone; in October 2012, the gallery will celebrate its 20th year of serving the Brooklyn neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Lurita Brown has managed to constantly reinvent her business with each mountain of a challenge, enabling her to be acclaimed not only locally, but also nationally; prior to CHSAFG, she was working as a successful advertising executive for EBONY MAGAZINE, but she always had a passion for collecting African art; and

WHEREAS, As the African-American middle class began to grow in the late 1980s, Lurita Brown believed that reproductions of artwork from African-American artists would soon be in high demand; she would soon encounter the problem that reproductions could not be found anywhere; and

WHEREAS, Lurita Brown found out that many of the artists were self-publishing their works because, at the time, art publishers were not interested in publishing African, Latin, Caribbean and Native American art; she then decided to open the business; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Lurita Brown had many challenges and obstacles but always overcame them; she began by selling only reproductions of artwork in prints and posters, and attracted clients from all boroughs and neighboring states; the framing was only a complimentary service at the time, but over the years it grew to be at the core of her business; and

WHEREAS, In the next few years, Lurita Brown wants to get into something new, evolving her business and her skills even more; she plans to host talks, workshops and demonstrations with hints, tips and insider secrets on the business to everyone from artists to collectors; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Lurita Brown for 20 years of successful ownership of the Clinton Hill Simply Art and Framing Gallery; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lurita Brown.