

2011-J5356

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the students of H. Frank Carey High School who participated in an event to benefit disadvantaged children in Freetown, Sierra Leone

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those young people within the great Empire State who have made strong contributions to their communities and who serve as role models for their peers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the students of H. Frank Carey High School who participated in an event to benefit disadvantaged children in Freetown, Sierra Leone; and

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, June 5, 2012, H. Frank Carey High School students participated in an ice cream fundraiser to raise money for disadvantaged school children in Freetown, a small village in Sierra Leone; and

WHEREAS, Salifu Kamara, a former child soldier and current student at American University in Washington, DC, inspired Carey students Alexandra Bieler and Alexandra Kadell to help coordinate this fundraiser for the purpose of rebuilding Freetown; and

WHEREAS, During a video conference hosted by 21st Century Scholars and American University, Salifu Kamara told Carey students his compelling story of survival which provided him with motivation and inspiration, eventually allowing him to receive a scholarship to study at American University; and

WHEREAS, Grateful for his opportunity to further his education in the United States, Salifu Kamara told Carey students about his dream to rebuild Freetown and present children of the village with the opportunity to receive an education; and

WHEREAS, Salifu explained to the students that education is one of the

most powerful means to restore his village and keep children out of harm's way; and

WHEREAS, In response to Salifu's story, Alexandra Bieler and Alexandra Kadell and the Voices Unheard club, as well as many other exceptional students, intervened and took up the challenge to fulfill Salifu's dream to raise money for school children in his village, directing efforts to provide essential school supplies, such as pens, pencils, books, desks, and chairs, that schools in Freetown lack; and

WHEREAS, With every scoop of ice cream sold, students created paper school houses and paper children, hanging them in the hallways of Carey High School to spread awareness for their cause; and

WHEREAS, The benevolence of these exceptional students turned tragedy into hope, and despair into happiness; and

WHEREAS, With their sense of civic duty and their commitment to others, the students of H. Frank Carey High School represent the best development of the potential which is inherent in our most precious resource, our youth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the students of H. Frank Carey High School who participated in an event to benefit disadvantaged children in Freetown, Sierra Leone; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to H. Frank Carey High School, and Student Leaders Alexandra Bieler and Alexandra Kadell.