

## 2013-J2901

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jonathan Ferrer upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2013 National Brower Youth Award by Earth Island Institute

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the continuing welfare of the citizens of this great State and nation is greatly enriched by the purposeful endeavors of individuals and organizations committed to the preservation of our environment, and to the enhancement of appreciation for the distinctive features of our natural surroundings; and

WHEREAS, A young man of singular distinction, Jonathan Ferrer has distinguished himself as a young man of superlative ability, establishing a high standard of excellence and purposefulness of life rarely achieved in youthful years; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jonathan Ferrer upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2013 National Brower Youth Award by Earth Island Institute, to be celebrated at its 14th Annual Brower Youth Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, October 22, 2013, at Nourse Theatre in San Francisco, California; and

WHEREAS, Earth Island Institute established the Brower Award for Environmental Leadership in 2000 to honor renowned environmentalist David Brower; the New Leaders Initiative recognizes six young environmental activists, ages 13-22, from North America for their outstanding efforts to promote ecological sustainability and social justice; and

WHEREAS, Growing up in a community of southwest Brooklyn surrounded by three large power plants, Jonathan Ferrer witnessed firsthand the social and environmental injustices that put the health and well-being of his family and friends at risk; and

WHEREAS, An avid environmentalist and volunteer, Jonathan Ferrer is a

youth justice organizer and a core leader at the United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE), a community-based organization that works to ameliorate the environmental burdens of the Sunset Park neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Through UPROSE, Jonathan Ferrer organizes the New York City Climate Justice Youth Summit, the largest youth climate convergence in the city of New York; the summit, which features speakers, musicians, and spoken-word artists, brings together hundreds of young people for an opportunity to learn more about the social and environmental issues they face; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Jonathan Ferrer also facilitates community meetings through the Climate Justice Community Resilience Center, a space for community members to exchange ideas and resources on how they can take individual action to better their environment; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon every citizen to recognize that we are all stewards of our environment and to applaud the efforts of individuals such as Jonathan Ferrer who work tirelessly to protect our environment and natural surroundings for the benefit of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, With his sense of civic duty and his commitment to others, Jonathan Ferrer represents 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 honor Jonathan Ferrer upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2013 National Brower Youth Award by Earth Island Institute; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jonathan Ferrer.