

2013-J2925

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Elizabeth H. Berger, distinguished citizen and devoted member of the Lower Manhattan community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, With great sorrow and deep regret, this Legislative Body is moved to mourn the death of Elizabeth H. Berger, distinguished citizen and devoted member of the Lower Manhattan community, who died on Monday, August 5, 2013, at the age of 53; and

WHEREAS, An exceptional civic leader and longtime champion of Lower Manhattan, Elizabeth Berger distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, The president and CEO of the Alliance for Downtown New York, as well as the president of the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association, Elizabeth Berger was an instrumental figure in the shaping, revisioning, and rebuilding of Lower Manhattan after the 9/11 attacks; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Harrie Berger was born on August 3, 1960, in New York City; during her childhood she split her time between New York, Buffalo and Providence, Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Berger graduated from Yale College with a degree from the program she created, The Study of the City; after graduation, she established and built government relations practices at the law firms Lord Day & Lord Barrett Smith; LeBoeuf, Lamb Greene & MacRae; and the law offices of Claudia Wagner; and

WHEREAS, A talented professional, Elizabeth Berger went on to create

the Department of Government and External Affairs at Lincoln Center; she also served as an Assistant Mayoral Representative to the New York City Council during the administration of Mayor Edward Koch; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Berger's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Berger was immersed in New York City's civic life; a 30 year resident of New York City's Financial District, she was a member of Community Board 1 from 1999 to 2005, and was also deeply involved with many organizations, serving on the boards of The Municipal Art Society, Film Forum, Second Stage Theatre, American Museum of Natural History Planetarium Authority and the New York Building Congress; she was also a mayoral appointee to the board of the Trust for Governors Island; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Berger joined the Alliance for Downtown (Downtown Alliance) as president and CEO in November 2007 after serving as a board member for several years; and

WHEREAS, Under her visionary leadership, the Alliance and Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association successfully advocated for many initiatives, including full funding and timely completion of the Fulton Street Transit Center; the reconstruction of Fiterman Hall; and the enactment of post-9/11 commercial leasing incentives; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Berger was renowned for her indefatigable energy, exacting intellect, creativity, and unreserved love for New York City; she will be remembered for her optimism and drive, for her strong commitment to her family and friends, and for her vision of Lower Manhattan "as a place teeming with vitality and potential and a proving ground for municipal innovation"; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Berger was sincerely loved and greatly respected by all with whom she worked; she served her community with dignity, dedication and incisive wisdom; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Berger is survived by her husband, Frederick Kaufman, her two children, Phoebe and Julian, her mother, Anita, and her brother, Gideon; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Elizabeth Berger leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Elizabeth H. Berger, distinguished citizen and devoted member of the Lower Manhattan community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Elizabeth H. Berger.