

2013-J2938

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the founders of Project Pay it Forward upon the occasion of their designation as 2013 People of the Year by the LONG BEACH HERALD, on December 26, 2013

WHEREAS, Individuals and organizations that serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Project Pay it Forward has truly served the best interests of the people of the great State of New York and consequently has been designated for special recognition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the founders of Project Pay it Forward upon the occasion of their designation as 2013 People of the Year by the LONG BEACH HERALD, on December 26, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Project Pay it Forward is a collaborative effort of Long Beach, New York, business owners and residents aimed at helping local businesses ravaged by 2012's Hurricane Sandy get rebuilt and off the ground; and

WHEREAS, Project Pay it Forward helps one local business at a time by determining what assistance that business needs to recover, whether it be a fundraiser or just someone to help put up sheetrock in a gutted space, and then organizing volunteers to help do the work, or hosting an event to raise money; the effort's name is derived from the hope that, once a business is restored, it will, in turn, "pay it forward" and help the group with the next project; and

WHEREAS, Project Pay it Forward's founders are Jackie and Billy Kupferman, of the Long Beach Surfer's Association, Sean Sullivan, owner of Swingbellys restaurant, and his wife, Kelly Sullivan, Janet Slavin, of the Janet Slavin law firm, Michelle Kelly, owner of Earth Arts, and her husband, Tim Kelly; and

WHEREAS, This uplifting initiative came together when its founders collaborated on a project during the holidays last year that involved buying gift cards from local businesses and donating them to families in need; and

WHEREAS, Officially launched in January 2013, Project Pay it Forward has left an indelible mark on Long Beach, effectively mobilizing and inspiring a community that had been left reeling after a disaster; and

WHEREAS, To date, the organization has raised significant funds and has helped approximately 20 businesses and organizations across the barrier island, ranging from surf shops to the Knights of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, The selfless spirit of Project Pay it Forward's founders is all the more remarkable because they, too, were severely impacted by the storm; Michelle and Tim Kelly are trying to rebuild their home and are still displaced, and Sean Sullivan's business was destroyed; and

WHEREAS, The founders of Project Pay it Forward have given of themselves unstintingly to countless civic and charitable endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Billy Kupferman helps to organize a local Mustaches for Kids fundraiser every year for Memorial Sloan Kettering's Pediatric Cancer Care; during the 2013 holiday season, Michelle Kelly teamed up with Kelly Sullivan and the Blue Bungalow's Patricia Daly to launch the Shop Local, Shop Long Beach initiative; in addition, Kelly Sullivan is one of the founders of Imagine Long Beach, an online initiative aimed at improving the city by bringing in new businesses and venues; and

WHEREAS, Project Pay it Forward is an exemplary endeavor, embodying the sense of cooperation and optimism that characterizes what is best in communities across the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of their community service, a period of constructive involvement, the founders of Project Pay it Forward have stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which the founders of Project Pay it Forward

have displayed throughout their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the founders of Project Pay it Forward upon the occasion of their designation as 2013 People of the Year by the LONG BEACH HERALD; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Michelle and Tim Kelly, Jackie and Billy Kupferman, Janet Slavin, and Sean and Kelly Sullivan, founders of Project Pay it Forward.