

## 2013-J3792

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Laurelton Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs upon the occasion of its 37th Annual Founders' Day Awards Luncheon, on March 22, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served their communities and the people of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Laurelton Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs upon the occasion of its 37th Annual Founders' Day Awards Luncheon, to be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Laurelton Club is a chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC, Inc.); and

WHEREAS, The NANBPWC, Inc. provides opportunities for women to increase their leadership skills, experience governance and parliamentary procedures, and enhance their educational awareness of issues impacting the Black community through volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, The trailblazing concept of a national organization of black business and professional women was first developed in 1934 by the late Emma Odessa Young, a realtor from New York City and a member of the New York Club of Business and Professional Women; and

WHEREAS, In July 1935, Mrs. Ollie Chinn Porter, president of the New York Club, built on the idea and extended an invitation to other local clubs organized as Business and Professional Women's Clubs, to join and form a national organization; and

WHEREAS, The extraordinary and visionary founders of the NANBPWC, Inc. were: Emma Odessa Young, Ollie Chinn Porter and Effie Diton of New York City; Bertha Perry Rhodes, Josephine B. Keene and Adelaide Flemming of Philadelphia; and Pearl Flippen of Atlantic City; and

WHEREAS, After a year of meetings, the first convention was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on July 9-11, 1936, at the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church; the aim of this newly formed national organization was then, as it is today, to attract women of high caliber to organize similar clubs within their communities; and

WHEREAS, The NANBPWC's daring and inspiring goals were to share their experiences and exchange information, to protect their interests, and to encourage and develop opportunities for black women in businesses and professions, high aspirations indeed given the realities of the time; and

WHEREAS, The founders of the NANBPWC, Inc. were owners, managers, college graduates, and other professionally licensed women, who had managed to realize some measure of personal success at a time when very few black people had businesses or professions, many were still deep in the throes of the depression, and there was no national movement to improve the lot of black Americans; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the NANBPWC, Inc. has grown in numbers and scope, continuing to encourage black economic independence, and performing many needed community service activities that go far beyond the original purpose; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Laurelton Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, in the tradition of their bold founders, serve with a spirit, faith and determination that is unparalleled; and

WHEREAS, Through its diligence and exemplary endeavors over the course of 37 years, the Laurelton Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs has truly become an indispensa-

ble asset to its community; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proudly moved to honor the members, past and present, of the Laurelton Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, who have labored so conscientiously to improve the quality of life for the community it serves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Laurelton Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs upon the occasion of its 37th Annual Founders' Day Awards Celebration; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Laurelton Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs.