

2013-J3795

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 15th Anniversary of Exodus Transitional Community, Inc. on March 27, 2014

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary organizations it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of Exodus Transitional Community, Inc. on Thursday, March 27, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Exodus Transitional Community, Inc. (Exodus) is a faith-based organization founded in 1999, by Julio Medina to provide supportive services to formerly incarcerated men and women to help them reintegrate into their communities, thereby achieving social and economic well-being and breaking the cycle of recidivism; and

WHEREAS, Exodus began when former gang leader Julio Medina wanted to change his life after spending 12 years behind bars; he subsequently opened Exodus Transitional Community in service to ex-offenders on the notion that individuals released from prison cannot be released into mainstream society without any resources to support their transition; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his twelve year sentence, Julio Medina witnessed his peers succumb to the desperation of not being able to find employment, reconnect with their families or adapt to a changed society, despite their desire to embrace their freedom and re-create their lives without crime; and

WHEREAS, Stymied by the gap in services necessary to address their transition and goals to live productive lives, these individuals often

times found themselves trapped in criminal justice's revolving door; and WHEREAS, Julio Medina vowed to dedicate his life to breaking the cycle of recidivism by utilizing a holistic approach to re-entry into society, inspired by the book of Exodus in the Old Testament; the Exodus service model is focused on guiding participants toward concrete accomplishments to demonstrate they can take control of their future; and

WHEREAS, Exodus supports individuals in setting goals, as well as developing plans to achieve those goals in employment, education, family/relationships, spirituality, health/physical fitness, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission of Changing Lives, Restoring Hope, Exodus has seen much success at meeting the needs of formerly incarcerated individuals, and has garnered National attention; in 2004, the organization was chosen as the Signature Program by the White House for faith-based post-release initiatives; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of Exodus Transitional Community, Inc. on March 27, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Julio Medina, Exodus Transitional Community, Inc.