

2013-J4065

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Deb Howard upon the occasion of being honored in conjunction with Women's History Month 2014 in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those women of achievement within the Empire State who have made strong contributions to their communities and who inspire others through their model citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Deb Howard upon the occasion of being honored in conjunction with Women's History Month 2014 in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made invaluable contributions to the growth and strength of New York State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the State of New York officially sets aside time to recognize the achievements and lives of such exemplary women, representatives of the wide-ranging and vital roles women have played in the historic development of this great Empire State and its communities; the theme of this year's commemoration is "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment"; and

WHEREAS, A leader in community development in Brooklyn, New York, Deb Howard has dedicated much of her professional life to improving neighborhoods and advocating for good housing policy; throughout her professional and civic endeavors, she has consistently epitomized the values of character, courage, and commitment in her unwavering service to her community; and

WHEREAS, Deb Howard is Executive Director of the Pratt Area Community Council (PACC), a community-based organization serving the Central

Brooklyn neighborhoods of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Prospect Heights, and Bedford Stuyvesant in five programmatic areas: homeowner and home-buyer services; community and tenant organizing; lead poisoning prevention; economic development and commercial revitalization; and support services for persons living with chronic illness and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, Deb Howard began her distinguished career in community development as a VISTA volunteer in Chicago after graduating from Knox College with a degree in Urban Studies; she joined PACC in 1990, and served in multiple capacities, expanding the range and depth of her expertise until she became the organization's Housing Director in 2002, and assumed her present role in 2004; and

WHEREAS, As Executive Director, Deb Howard oversees a staff of 75, and manages a portfolio of 76 buildings, with their 1000th unit of affordable housing now in development; under her luminous leadership, PACC is truly making a difference in the lives of Brooklyn residents; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her vital work with PACC, Deb Howard demonstrates her commitment to the community by lending her time and talent to many organizations and efforts; she serves as Board Chair of the Association of Neighborhood Housing Developers, and sits on the board of Brooklyn Legal Services; and

WHEREAS, Deb Howard is also a member Brooklyn Speaks, and the steering committees of New Yorkers for Responsible Lending and the Coalition for the Improvement of Bedford Stuyvesant; she has served on former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Neighborhood Initiatives Advisory Panel as Chair of the Small Buildings Committee; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her service to her community Deb Howard has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for Deb Howard, and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Deb Howard upon the occasion of being honored in conjunction with Women's History Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Deb Howard.