

2013-J4071

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending L. Joy Williams 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 L. Joy Williams 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, Advocate L. Joy Williams is a political strategist and founder of LJW Community Strategies; throughout her professional and civic endeavors, she has consistently epitomized the values of character, courage, and commitment in her unwavering service to her students, colleagues, and community; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Brooklyn, New York, L. Joy Williams serves as a consultant and adviser to public officials and organizations across the country, as well as a trusted media commentator; she has been featured

on BET, Pacifica Radio, MSNBC, Current TV and NY1's "Inside City Hall," and hosts "TWiB in the Morning" on the award-winning online radio station TWiB.FM; and

WHEREAS, L. Joy Williams' passion for the democratic process and civic engagement was instilled at an early age and stems from her family's deeply rooted faith and commitment to social justice; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, L. Joy Williams combined her problem-solving skills and compassion for others to initiate Brooklyn Lives, an HIV/AIDS awareness project, after learning that Brooklyn was cited as the HIV/AIDS epicenter in New York City; in just a few weeks she mobilized elected officials, nonprofit and business leaders, media companies and the community at large to provide free testing in more than a dozen locations, and engaged high school students to make HIV awareness presentations to their peers; and

WHEREAS, L. Joy Williams has had a long and effective career in public service and political affairs; she has registered voters, coordinated campaigns, and worked for public officials, serving as special assistant to former New York City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, deputy director to former New York City Comptroller Bill Thompson, and program assistant at Demos, a non-partisan public policy and advocacy organization; and

WHEREAS, L. Joy Williams is the founding Chairman of Higher Heights for America, President of the Brooklyn NAACP, a National Board Member of PAC+, and serves on her local community board; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her service to her community and the State of New York, L. Joy Williams 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 L. Joy Williams, 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 atten-

tion, 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 L. Joy Williams 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 L. Joy Williams.