

2013-J4304

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Adjoa Esinam Gzifa upon the occasion of her designation as a 2014 New York State Senate Woman of Distinction

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that women of every economic, ethnic, and religious background have made significant contributions to their community and to the State of New York, and that it is appropriate to recognize them and to publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, each year the New York State Senate honors outstanding women who make our world and our lives better; this Legislative Body is, therefore, justly proud to recognize and commend Adjoa Esinam Gzifa upon the occasion of her designation as a 2014 New York State Senate Woman of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, Adjoa Esinam Gzifa has contributed significantly to both her chosen profession and to her community and truly merits this high honor; and

WHEREAS, A native New Yorker, Adjoa Esinam Gzifa is the 14th child of the late Eva and Willie Henry; she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from York College, City University of New York in 1988, as well as a Master's of Art degree in Urban Studies from Queens College in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Adjoa Esinam Gzifa is the Director of The Workforce Education Center, Division of Adult and Continuing Education at LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, New York; she is also an adjunct lecturer at York College; and

WHEREAS, As an educator, Adjoa Esinam Gzifa is committed to providing quality education to youth enrolled in the various programs at LaGuardia Community College; she develops curriculums and guidelines for all of

the youth programs under her supervision, and is actively involved with the Summer Youth Employment Program which provides summer employment to 1,700 youth; and

WHEREAS, Active within her community, Adjoa Esinam Gzifa is a board member of Neighborhood Housing Services of Jamaica, a lifetime member of the York College Alumni Association, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Epsilon Pi Omega Chapter; she was inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society in October of 2006; and

WHEREAS, In addition, she served five years as President of the York College Alumni, Inc., and has held an office on the Executive Board since 1988; she is a member of the Queens General Assembly, an appointee to the Public Advocate's Civic Leader Board, and a member of the Board of Directors of the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals; and

WHEREAS, An avid volunteer, Adjoa Esinam Gzifa provides leadership for the Toys-for-Tots program hosted by the York College Alumni Association, prepares meals for the elderly in her community, and feeds the homeless on Thanksgiving Day; and

WHEREAS, Adjoa Esinam Gzifa's advocacy extends beyond the United States; she has traveled to Ghana for more than 20 years where she works with children in villages, providing tuition, books, clothing, and most of all hope for the future; she extraordinarily, with the help of a colleague, built a school for more than 600 students enrolled in the Oshiyie D/A Primary School in Ghana through an organization they founded called Future Scholars of the World, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Adjoa Esinam Gzifa is the proud recipient of numerous awards and accolades some of which include: National Association of Equal Opportunity in Higher Education Distinguished Alumna Award; York College

Alumni Distinguished Alumna Award, Heroic Women's Award from Borough President Helen Marshall; the Guy R. Brewer Community Service Award; National Association of University Women, Long Island Branch, Hilda A.

Davis Award; National Association of Negro Women, Educator's Award; and WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her three children, Sheridan, Carleene and the late Kelvin, and nine grandchildren, Lamar, Gerrard, Jordan, Joshua, Kianai, Jade, Jennifer, Karizma and Jaden, as well as two great-grandchildren, Merrick and Kelvin, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Adjoa Esinam Gzifa has displayed throughout her life; 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 this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Adjoa Esinam Gzifa upon the occasion of her designation as a 2014 New York State Senate Woman of Distinction; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Adjoa Esinam Gzifa.