

2013-J4509

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Rabbi David Mark Eligberg upon the occasion of his installation as the Rabbi and spiritual leader at Temple Israel, Albany, New York

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Rabbi David Mark Eligberg upon the occasion of his installation as the Rabbi and spiritual leader at Temple Israel, Albany, New York, on May 2-3, 2014 (2 Iyar 5774); and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Rabbi David Mark Eligberg was ordained in 1985 by the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City; he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Columbia University, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Talmud from The Seminary College of Jewish Studies, and a Master of Arts degree in Jewish Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi David Mark Eligberg is known as a teacher, guide, and role model for all who wish to explore meaningful lives according to Jewish tradition; and

WHEREAS, Along with his family, Rabbi David Mark Eligberg has routinely opened his home to congregants, creating opportunities to experience the warmth of Shabbat and the joy of festivals; he has enriched his

congregation's celebration of holidays through creative programs, multi-media presentations, storytelling, theatre arts, and puppetry; and WHEREAS, Most recently, Rabbi David Mark Eligberg served as the Rabbi and principal of the Beit Rayim Synagogue and Hebrew School in Thornhill, Ontario, Canada; there, he developed a dialogue series with synagogue youth known as "Rumble With the Rabbi," and focused on engaging upcoming B'nai Mitzvah and their families in serious study in preparation for this important life cycle event; and

WHEREAS, Together with his wife, Jodi, Rabbi David Mark Eligberg introduced a song-filled monthly Kabbalat Shabbat service, as well as a monthly Shabbat morning program for children under six, and their parents or grandparents, entitled Shabbat Shorashim; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi David Mark Eligberg's previous experiences include serving as the Rabbi at Congregation B'nai Tikvah, North Brunswick, New Jersey, and Congregation Beth El, Levittown, Pennsylvania; in 2005, he and his wife were honored by B'nai Tikvah and State of Israel Bonds; and WHEREAS, Furthermore, Rabbi David Mark Eligberg has served on the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, and acted as the rabbinic co-chair of its Israel Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Today, Rabbi David Mark Eligberg serves as president of the Ontario Region of the Rabbinical Assembly, and previously served as president of the New Jersey Rabbinical Assembly; he is treasurer of the South Brunswick Area Clergy Association, and was an active member of the South Brunswick Community Resource Team; and

WHEREAS, This multi-talented man of faith is the author of several Halachic articles, a short story, several plays, and has developed three board games as instructional tools; he is currently working on several projects including a children's book about Jewish mitzvah heroes, a

collection of material for adults as a guidebook through the Yamim Noraim, and a revision of a musical retelling of the Purim narrative; and

WHEREAS, Spiritual guidance and nurturing are of great import to the vitality and wellbeing of all people and every community of this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Instrumental in the provision of such care are those men and women of religious commitment who accept the responsibility of moral leadership and render the wisdom of human understanding; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Rabbi David Mark Eligberg upon the occasion of his installation as the Rabbi and spiritual leader at Temple Israel, Albany, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi David Mark Eligberg.