

## 2013-J4547

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the King of Kings Foundation, Inc. upon the occasion of its Black Tie Awards Gala, and paying special tribute to founders Todd and Lance Feurtado

WHEREAS, Individuals and organizations devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the King of Kings Foundation, Inc. upon the occasion of its Black Tie Awards Gala, and to pay special tribute to founders Todd and Lance Feurtado on Saturday, June 7, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Todd and Lance Feurtado are both former gang members who made a decision to change their lives and become motivational and inspirational speakers; their unique approach to gang intervention and prevention as ex-offenders utilizes their past experiences to convey a strong message of action and consequences to youth at risk; and

WHEREAS, Emerging as important leaders and outspoken voices in their community, Todd and Lance Feurtado founded the King of Kings Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit organization; their foundation was created as a way of giving back to communities by reaching out to children and youth at risk by addressing most, if not all, of the issues that hinder the social, physical, economic, cultural and spiritual growth of children, youth, and young adults in New York City and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, The King of Kings Foundation, Inc.'s mission is to inform children, youth, and young adults of the dangers and consequences of guns, gangs, violence, drugs, and lack of education, which can lead to poverty, homelessness, and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to the health and welfare of young people, Todd and Lance Feurtado's goals are to change the cultural environment surrounding vulnerable young people by educating, motivating, uplifting, and inspiring them in an effort to eliminate violent and destructive behavior, despite the elements that continue to conspire to harm them; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2004, the King of Kings Foundation, Inc. began its work in public schools nationwide to assist students, teachers, vice-principals, and principals in bringing civil order and promoting education through workshops, assemblies, summits, presentations, and educational anti-drug documentaries which targeted at-risk students, particularly those struggling with behavioral and academic issues; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Todd and Lance Feurtado founded their own production companies, "Executive Star Productions," and "The Blessings of God Productions," which produced and released an anti-drug educational documentary, "King of Kings" and its soundtrack; this documentary won the Bronze Telly Award, the D.U.E. Award, and was nominated for the 1st Annual Urban DVD Award; the significant funds raised from their DVD helped to benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, Todd and Lance Feurtado's stellar efforts on behalf of young people and their futures earned them widespread media attention; the brothers appeared on the covers of several magazines, including F.E.D.S., and FELON, as well as on dozens of TV and Radio talk shows including ABC's "Like It Is," BET's "American Gangster," and TBN's "Praise The Lord"; and

WHEREAS, They are the recipients of numerous accolades and awards, including The Guiding Lights In The Community Award, and The Liberty Bell from Mayor John F. Street of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Todd and Lance Feurtado were the keynote speakers with Bill Cosby at the Save Our Children Summit in Wilmington, Delaware, and on Capitol Hill at the Congressional Black Caucus' Summit on the Hill; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of their community service, a period of constructive involvement, Todd and Lance Feurtado have stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which Todd and Lance Feurtado have displayed throughout their life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the King of Kings Foundation, Inc. upon the occasion of its Black Tie Awards Gala, and to pay special tribute to founders Todd and Lance Feurtado; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Todd and Lance Feurtado.