

2013-K1128

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the 12th Annual Citizenship NOW!
Campaign to be held April 28 - May 2, 2014

WHEREAS, The United States is predominantly a nation of immigrants which draws strength from the diversity of its residents; and

WHEREAS, The cultural diversity of immigrants to the United States adds to the social fabric of this nation, and the new ideas and energies immigrants contribute to the economy strengthen the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the 12th Annual Citizenship NOW! Campaign to be held April 28 - May 2, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Under the able coordination of CUNY Senior Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson, the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS and CUNY will kick-off the 12th Annual Citizenship NOW! Hotline offering free information to immigrants as they travel the complex road to citizenship; and

WHEREAS, More than 400 trained volunteers and counselors who speak more than 20 different languages will be available by telephone over the course of the week; and

WHEREAS, Launched by the DAILY NEWS and CUNY to address the systemic lack of access to free immigration information for the people who need it, CUNY Citizenship NOW! is the largest university-based immigration legal assistance program in the nation providing free, high quality, and confidential immigration law services to help individuals and families on their path to U.S. citizenship; and

WHEREAS, The Citizenship NOW! Campaign helps thousands of immigrant New Yorkers with the naturalization process and the transition to life in America; and

WHEREAS, Led by immigration attorney Allan Wernick, CUNY Citizenship NOW!'s attorneys and paralegals assist close to 8,000 individuals each

year at centers, and over 2,600 at citizenship events; since its inception in 1997, more than 127,985 people have been helped with 2,000 calls received daily; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the attorneys and paralegals coordinate community, educational, and volunteer initiatives to help expand opportunities for New York City's immigrant population, as well as serve the community in several languages, including Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Polish, French, and Italian; and

WHEREAS, The CUNY Express Center was selected by the New York Department of State as a neighborhood-based Opportunity Center to help immigrants fully participate in New York State civic and economic life by providing English classes for speakers of other languages; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, believes in the human dignity of all its residents and recognizes the importance of the many contributions immigrants have made to the social and economic fabric of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the 12th Annual Citizenship NOW! Campaign to be held April 28 - May 2, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to CUNY Citizenship NOW!