

## 2013-J5086

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Al Mathieu upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Man of Distinction Award on May 22, 2014

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Al Mathieu upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Man of Distinction Award, to be celebrated at the 7th Annual Men of Distinction and Women of Valor Awards Ceremony on Thursday, May 22, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Men of Distinction and Women of Valor Awards Ceremony is held each year to recognize and pay just tribute to outstanding and accomplished individuals whose leadership roles have had a significant impact on the daily lives of the people of the State of New York, and who have gone above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Brownsville native, Al Mathieu, is currently the sole proprietor and property owner of Black Success Unisex; II and

WHEREAS, While working as an apprentice at Black Success Barbershop, Al Mathieu not only studied and practiced the art of Barbering, but he also had the insight to learn the importance of owning real estate and its value to a barber, and the importance of establishing a barbershop culture; and

WHEREAS, Within three years of completing his apprenticeship and obtaining his Masters License in Barbering, Al Mathieu positioned himself both professionally and financially to open Black Success Unisex II as its sole proprietor and property owner; and

WHEREAS, As a barbershop owner himself, Al Mathieu decided to stay with the theme of "Black Success" and vowed to create a barbershop culture that celebrated black success, encouraged both barbers and

patrons to be good citizens, to be economically savvy, to be health conscious, and to be family and community oriented; and

WHEREAS, As a result of his success, Black Success Unisex II patrons began to ask Al Mathieu to speak at various venues, and share his views and opinions on best practices for aspiring entrepreneurs on community policing, best practices regarding intervention and prevention strategies involving gang violence and gang culture, and on black history and cultural awareness; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Al Mathieu has presented workshops, participated on panels, and has mentored young people at the East New York Urban Youth Corps, Man Up Inc., Brownsville Recreation Center, and at the Brooklyn District Attorney Office's "Back on Track Program"; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, Al Mathieu marched with and supported December 12th Movement youth programming, and he currently sits on the boards of Mr. B's Project, The Black Barber Health Outreach Program New York University School of Medicine, and Tailored Approach to Sleep Health Education New York University School of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, As sole proprietor of Black Success Unisex II, Al Mathieu has allowed his business to conduct on site health screenings, and has allowed outreach workers of various backgrounds to hold discussions and dispense information; and

WHEREAS, Al Mathieu has been highlighted in many publications including being quoted in THE NEW YORK TIMES, and has been featured in CITY LIMITS MAGAZINE; and

WHEREAS, To date, Al Mathieu has employed over 20 Barbers, and has positively impacted the lives of hundreds of teenagers, young adults, and men; he does his best work while his patron is in the chair, there,

he and his patron listen, learn, and share with each other life lessons, best practices, and anecdotes; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a

long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Al Mathieu upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Man of Distinction Award on May 22, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Al Mathieu.