

2013-J5242

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Cord Meyer Development, George S. Meyer, and generations of the Meyer Family upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Queens Botanical Garden on June 12, 2014

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 Cord Meyer Development, George S. Meyer, and generations of the Meyer Family upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Queens Botanical Garden; this laudable company and family will be honored on Thursday, June 12, 2014, at Rose Gala 2014: Commemorating the 1939 & 1964 World's Fairs; and

WHEREAS, Cord Meyer Development and the Meyer Family have been selected for this esteemed recognition because of their long-standing leadership and support of Queens Botanical Garden and the Queens community; and

WHEREAS, Since its incorporation in December 1904, the Cord Meyer Development Company has been a driving force in the progress of Queens, New York, especially on the neighborhoods of Elmhurst and Forest Hills; in enacting his vision of positive community growth, the company's first president, Cord Meyer, Jr., set the stage for what would be a multigenerational legacy of extraordinary civic leadership and service; and

WHEREAS, The Meyer family has led the way in championing the creation, preservation, and improvement of one of Queens' most beloved community

resources, Queens Botanical Garden; and

WHEREAS, In 1946, Charles G. Meyer, Sr., working with other civic leaders, formally founded the Queens Botanical Garden Society, Inc., which was organized to revive the five-acre Gardens on Parade exhibit that was created for the 1939 New York World's Fair in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, but had fallen into a state of disrepair during World War II; on June 5, 1948, this forward looking group was joined by 4,000 local residents, leading citizens, and elected and appointed government representatives to celebrate the official opening of the recreated Garden; Charles G. Meyer, Sr., served as Queens Botanical Garden Society's first president; and

WHEREAS, Over the decades, the Meyer family has been a steadfast advocate, supporter, and friend of the Queens Botanical Garden, which has flourished with their involvement, moving to its much larger 39-acre home in 1961; and

WHEREAS, After Charles G. Meyer, Sr.'s death in 1950, his son, Charles G. Meyer, Jr., took over as President, continuing in that role through the late 1970's; his wife, Sally Meyer, was also an ardent supporter of the Garden and worked behind the scenes for years; in 1986, the Charles G. Meyer Education Building, named for Charles G. Meyer, Jr. opened to host the Queens Botanical Garden's burgeoning education program; and

WHEREAS, Charles G. Meyer Jr.'s son, George S. Meyer, continued the family's involvement with the Garden by serving on the board of trustees beginning in 1972, becoming chairman in the 1980s, and returning as a trustee in the 2000s; this committed man was additionally connected to the Garden, having been employed as a maintenance supervisor in the 1964 World's Fair after being discharged from the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, George S. Meyer joined Cord Meyer Development in the mid 1960's and enjoyed a 35-year career before retiring as Executive Vice President in 2001; the family tradition continued when George S. Meyer's son, Willets, joined the Queens Botanical Garden board in 2006 and went

on to serve as vice chairman; and

WHEREAS, Today, Cord Meyer Development is currently led by Chief Executive Officer Sal Panico and Chief Operating Officer Anthony Colletti, continuing the tradition of leadership and service; and

WHEREAS, Clearly, Queens has been abundantly blessed by Cord Meyer, the firm he founded, and his descendants who have brought so much to the borough's people; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proudly moved to honor and commend Cord Meyer Development and the Meyer Family who have labored so conscientiously to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Queens, New York, noting the significance of their unremitting efforts to build a commonality of interest via their support of the Queens Botanical Garden, affirming the values of community, environmental preservation, and civic pride; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Cord Meyer Development, George S. Meyer, and generations of the Meyer Family upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Queens Botanical Garden; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Meyer Family and Sal Panico, Chief Executive Officer of Cord Meyer Development.