

## 2013-J5530

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Carol Maraj Foundation upon the occasion of its Third Annual Beauty for Ashes Brunch on May 29, 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 the Carol Maraj Foundation upon the occasion of its Third Annual Beauty for Ashes Brunch; this special fundraiser to benefit victims of domestic violence will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2014, at The Coral House, Baldwin, New York; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Carol Maraj Foundation (CMF) is to empower victims of domestic violence to see their human value through programs designed to nurture self-esteem, build inner strength and give hope; and

WHEREAS, Under the sparkling direction of Founder and Chief Executive Officer Carol Maraj, mother of renowned artist Nicki Minaj, CMF offers individual and group counseling for battered women, as well as assistance with safety planning and shelter placement in crisis situations; in addition, this vital organization offers support groups, help for families dealing with drug and alcohol addiction, childcare volunteer programs, and support for children who have witnessed domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, CMF's Dolls Up initiative offers self-image improvement to battered women through the Mobile-Spa and Nutrition Program which visits various shelters of abused women to do beauty makeovers and with health and wellness workshops; understanding that attention to beauty consti-

tutes inward and outward care, these affirming experiences encourage and fortify victims of domestic violence, helping them feel better about themselves and thereby enhancing their ability to set and achieve goals; and

WHEREAS, The M.O.V.E. (Moving Onward Vocationally Empowered) program helps shift victims of domestic violence from dependency to independence through education, training, and job placement assistance; the initiative offers victims whose sole purpose for enduring abuse is financial dependence an alternative to returning to their abusers for financial support; and

WHEREAS, Carol Maraj is a long-standing advocate for housing, employment, public assistance, and health care for families affected by domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, A survivor of domestic violence herself, Carol Maraj has dedicated her life to raise awareness of domestic violence issues; she is committed to helping families recover from abuse, and women to reintegrate into society through empowerment; and

WHEREAS, It is the conviction of this Legislative Body that when organizations and individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Carol Maraj Foundation upon the occasion of its Third Annual Beauty for Ashes Brunch; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Carol Maraj, Founder and President.