

## 2013-J5459

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ashley Newman upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Vidie L. McLaughlin Award by the Black Women's Association of Albany on June 14, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to act, in accord with its long-standing traditions, honoring the youth of today, and leaders of tomorrow, whose character and achievements best exemplify the ideals and values cherished by this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Ashley Newman upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Vidie L. McLaughlin Award by the Black Women's Association of Albany, to be celebrated at its 9th Annual Marian I. Hughes Scholarship Awards Luncheon on Saturday, June 14, 2014, at The Desmond Hotel, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Black Women's Association of Albany (BWAA) was founded on September 21, 1977, by a group of dynamic women with the purpose to stimulate social awareness, encourage cultural growth, help youth realize their full potential through education and serve as positive role models for African American women of all ages; and

WHEREAS, The Vidie L. McLaughlin Award is given annually by BWAA member, the Honorable Carolyn McLaughlin, in memory of her mother; and

WHEREAS, A Senior at Columbia High School, Ashley Newman has an impressive 99.7% GPA and won the AP Scholar With Honors Award; she was recently profiled in the TIMES UNION as one of the Top High School Scholars in the Capital District, and has also been featured on News Channels 10 and 13; and

WHEREAS, With a true passion for science, Ashley Newman conducted research on Type 1 Diabetes at the Center for Cell Biology at Albany

Medical College; her research, both impressive and original, led to her designation as recipient of a Spotlight on Youth Award; and WHEREAS, In addition, she has twice been her school's Science Olympiad Team Captain, and subsequently won an Award of Excellence from the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Students; and

WHEREAS, Active within her community, Ashley Newman is an assistant dance instructor and applies her talents to various forms of competitive dancing with Robin's Rising Stars; she is actively involved in the Community Outreach program of New Hope Family Life Center where she teaches Sunday School; and

WHEREAS, An avid volunteer, Ashley Newman has given of her time and energies to deliver Christmas gifts to those in need within her community; she has also traveled to Jamaica to donate book bags and school supplies to the local children; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Newman will attend Georgetown University to major in Biochemistry, with a long-term goal to become a Reproductive Endocrinologist; and

WHEREAS, As Ashley Newman takes her leave of Columbia High School, she leaves a legacy of academic achievement, school involvement and community service to which others may aspire; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Newman stands poised on the threshold of a broad and challenging world; a testament to the love and nurturing care of her family, friends and school; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Ashley Newman, a young woman and able scholar, recognizing the value of her labors and the promise of her future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Ashley Newman upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of

the Vidie L. McLaughlin Award, to commend her for her outstanding academic achievement and to extend to her the best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being, fully

confident of her response to a promising future and appreciative of the model she represents for all aspiring young people of the Empire State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ashley Newman.