

2013-J5565

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Joel Siegel upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Neighborhood Service Award by the Flatbush Development Corporation

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Joel Siegel has given not only of his time and energies but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Joel Siegel upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Neighborhood Service Award by the Flatbush Development Corporation which was celebrated at its 39th Annual Awards Benefit on Thursday, May 8, 2014, at Gargiulo's Restaurant in Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Flatbush Development Corporation's mission is to enhance the quality of life for all segments of the Flatbush community; it identifies and responds to neighborhood needs and concerns, proactively creating programs and campaigns that work towards a healthy, safe and vibrant community; its economic development, housing, youth, and immigration programs serve the exceptionally diverse needs of its community; and

WHEREAS, With the exception of college in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and a few years in Soho in the mid-1970's, Joel Siegel has always resided in Brooklyn; his parents moved his family from Borough Park to Midwood when he was 10 years old, and he attended Hudde Junior High School and Midwood High School; and

WHEREAS, Joel Siegel went on to receive his bachelor's degree in

economics from the University of Michigan, and his juris doctor degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School; he has been practicing law for 29 years, with a focus on commercial law and residential real estate in Flatbush, New York; and

WHEREAS, Joel Siegel of Ditmas Park West will receive this auspicious award for enthusiastically and generously giving his time and energy to better his community; whether it's meeting with 70th precinct to address crime, appearing before the City Planning Commission to advocate for re-zoning, meeting with the Board of Standards and Appeals to address out-of-context construction, being president of the DPW Neighborhood Association, organizing block parties, raising funds for P.S. 217 art programs, leading the West Midwood Halloween parade with his trumpet, or helping plant trees on Arbor Day, Joel is always there for the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, To Joel Siegel, the small town feeling of Victorian Flatbush is perhaps its greatest asset; he enjoys a walk through the neighborhood which always includes meeting friends and neighbors, and for him, the recent influx of young adults and families is particularly energizing; and

WHEREAS, In addition, for almost 30 years, Joel Siegel has been leading his rhythm and blues band, The Blue Laws; while playing guitar in the band, he also plays piano and writes the band's original material; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Joel Siegel plays trumpet in the Borough of Manhattan Downtown Symphony Orchestra, and his photographs of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival appear in JAZZ TIMES magazine at jazz-times.com; and

WHEREAS, Joel Siegel has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a

period of constructive involvement, Joel Siegel has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his wife, Maria, who feels privileged to be a part of his life and rejoices in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Joel Siegel has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Joel Siegel upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Neighborhood Service Award by the Flatbush Development Corporation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joel Siegel.