

## 2013-J5569

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Widad A. Valme upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2014 "Unsung Hero" 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, Dr. Widad A. Valme has given not only of her time and energies but also of her 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 Dr. Widad A. Valme upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2014 "Unsung Hero" 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, Born in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Widad A. Valme graduated from St. Francis College in Brooklyn Heights; after completing her undergraduate work, she received her Doctor of Optometry degree from Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University; she has a license to practice in both the state of New York and the United States Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Dr. Widad A. Valme sees patients at Grace Eye

Care, her private practice which was opened in 2006; she is appreciated as a local optometrist who provides patients with convenient, yet comprehensive eye exams, and a caring, personal approach; she is also known to many in the Flatbush community as the eye doctor who collects used glasses to donate to those in need in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Widad A. Valme works as a consulting Optometrist for Helen Keller International, an international charity with the mission to save the sight and lives of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged by combating the causes and consequences of blindness and malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Dr. Widad A. Valme works for the New York Department of Education and Mental Hygiene, school Health Optometry program, as an independent doctor of optometry providing free and low cost eye exams to local school children; and

WHEREAS, In favor of the small town feel of Ditmas Park, Dr. Widad A. Valme is proud to provide quality eye care services to her community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Widad A. Valme has associations with many organizations such as HIS Vision, an organization which provides eye care to those in need domestically and internationally; she has become involved in their Haiti 2012 initiative where volunteer teams have partnered with different medical clinics, hospitals, and churches to provided mobile vision care in communities in and around Cap Haitien, Haiti; this year, approximately 1,000 individuals in northern Haiti have received eye care; and

WHEREAS, This accomplished woman is also associated with Association Haitienne de Development Humain Inc., The Red Cross, and Friends of Cortelyou, as well as an active member of the American Optometric Asso-

ciation, board member of the Brooklyn Contemporary Chorus, and the St. Columba Choir; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Widad A. Valme has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has

always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Dr. Widad A. Valme has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Dr. Widad A. Valme has displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Widad A. Valme upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2014 "Unsung Hero" Award by the Flatbush Development Corporation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Widad A. Valme.