

2015-J548

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ozier Muhammad for special recognition in observance of Black History Month

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Ozier Muhammad for special recognition in observance of Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, A renowned photojournalist, Ozier Muhammad has been photographing Harlem since he moved to New York in 1980; his unflinching portrait of that changing American community has been an unending source of inspiration; and

WHEREAS, Born in 1950, Ozier Muhammad was raised in Chicago, Illinois and received his Bachelor's degree in Photography from Columbia College Chicago in 1972; and

WHEREAS, First hired as a photographer for EBONY magazine in the early 1970s, Ozier Muhammad then worked at THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER from 1978 to 1980, followed by NEWSDAY from 1980 to 1992; and

WHEREAS, During his time at NEWSDAY, Ozier Muhammad shared the esteemed 1985 Pulitzer Prize in International Reporting for a series of reports titled, "Africa, The Desperate Continent"; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, Ozier Muhammad was hired as a staff photographer for THE NEW YORK TIMES, where he took iconic photographs of President Barack Obama's campaign, Haiti after its devastating earthquake, the NATO

Protest in Chicago, and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he has also written articles for THE NEW YORK TIMES photojournalism blog, "Lens"; and

WHEREAS, Ozier Muhammad was selected as a contributing photographer for SONGS OF MY PEOPLE, a book, exhibition and multimedia project that attempted to record African American life through the eyes of prominent African American photographers; his photography was also showcased in the 2000 book, ONE HUNDRED JOBS: A PANORAMA OF WORK IN THE AMERICAN CITY; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the Pulitzer Prize, Ozier Muhammad received the prestigious George Polk Award for News Photography in 1984, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from Columbia College Chicago in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Serving as a Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University from 1986 to 1987, Ozier Muhammad was also a Peter Jennings Fellow at the National Constitution Center of Philadelphia in 2007; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his two children, Khalil and Pilar, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Ozier Muhammad has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Ozier Muhammad for special recognition in observance of Black History Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Ozier Muhammad.