

2015-J1827

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Derrick C. James upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Caribbean Man of the Year Award by the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 honor Derrick C. James upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Caribbean Man of the Year Award by the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic, to be celebrated at its 8th Annual Gala, on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at Giando on the Water, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The 2015 Gala is entitled "A Salute to New York City's Nonprofits and the Neighborhoods They Serve: Promoting Wellness and Health Neighborhoods", which will bring together the city's borough Presidents as Honorary Chairs, as well as nonprofit organizations, funders and supporters; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1998, the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic (NTAC) strengthens partnerships between communities and philanthropies; its services build the capacity of New York City community-based and faith-based organizations serving low income and service-deprived neighborhoods through ongoing assessments which identify human, financial and other necessary resources; and

WHEREAS, NTAC's services include Funding and Grantmaking Assistance, Project Assistance and Consultation, Board Strategy and Consultation, Meet the Grantmakers, Grant Writing 101, Marketing Outreach and Special

Events, Staff/Volunteer Training, Speakers and Trainers, and Continuing Education; and

WHEREAS, Born in the village of Beaulieu, St. George's, Grenada, Derrick C. James attended St. George's Roman Catholic Boys' School and then the Grenada Boys' Secondary School; and

WHEREAS, Derrick C. James migrated to the United States in 1987, and earned his Bachelor's degree in Electro Mechanical Engineering Technologies at City College in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating, Derrick C. James was employed by IKON Office Solutions for 19 years, where he was the recipient of numerous citations and awards for excellence, which led to his promotion to a managerial position; and

WHEREAS, From 2008-2012, Derrick C. James held the esteemed title of Consul General of Grenada in New York City; throughout his tenure, he established himself as a community-minded individual, who continues to foster strong community building among Grenadians and friends of the Tri-island State of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as Consul General, Derrick C. James routinely visited hospitalized patients, supported bereaved families, and assisted sick persons without adequate financial resources; he also represented the interest of Grenada on a vast array of matters affecting the Diaspora community, including tourism relations, educational and cultural services, economic and business development, and health and wellness issues; and

WHEREAS, As the Chairman of the Grenada Disaster Committee of New York, Derrick C. James helped coordinate tremendous amounts of relief aid to assist citizens in Grenada who were affected by Hurricane Ivan in September of 2004; and

WHEREAS, As a committed public servant, Derrick C. James initiated the establishment of GRENCAP UNITED, an umbrella group for all Grenadian organizations in the Tri-State area in New York City; in addition, in

August of 2009, he spearheaded the Grenada Day cultural celebration; and WHEREAS, In January of 2010, Derrick C. James accompanied a team of dental professionals from New York University School of Dentistry to Grenada in conducting the first phase of a nationwide outreach oral healthcare clinical program; the program was also extended to Carriacou and Petite Martinique; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy in 2012, Derrick C. James worked with his colleagues of the Caribbean Consular Corps and GRENCAP UNITED to bring support and relief to communities affected by the natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, Derrick C. James was appointed Ambassador of Humanitarian and Diaspora Affairs; and

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

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, 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 Derrick C. James upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Caribbean Man of the Year Award by the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Derrick C. James.