

2015-J2446

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its 4th Annual Summer Soiree on June 16, 2015, and paying tribute to its outstanding honorees

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 that are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its 4th Annual Summer Soiree, and paying tribute to this year's honorees, on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at Battery Park, New York City; and

WHEREAS, The mission of Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT) is to help disadvantaged youth and adults recognize their own self-worth, and advance towards self-sufficiency and financial security through job training, academic reinforcement, improved life skills, job placement, and support services; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, OBT was founded in a run-down storefront by the late Sister Mary Franciscus, RSM, to serve at-risk, out-of-school, and unemployed youth of Sunset Park, Brooklyn; throughout the next decade, OBT established innovative employment and training strategies for young people and moved into a modern training facility at the former St. Rocco's Youth Center located in Sunset Park; and

WHEREAS, OBT has instituted new programs which include support services for the newly employed, adult job training, and both daytime and evening literacy classes; due to the success of its programs, OBT opened a second full-service site in Bushwick/Williamsburg in 2001, to serve residents of Bushwick, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and Williamsburg in

response to a lack of needed services in these communities; and
WHEREAS, The recipient of the Corporate Leadership Award, Marvin Schein has supported OBT for numerous years; in addition, he has served as Managing Member of the Met Opera Board of Directors for the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Ohio State University School of Pharmacy, Marvin Schein ran his family's business, Henry Schein Inc., a world leader in health care supplies distribution to office-based doctors, dentists and vets; under his luminous leadership, he successfully took the company public in the late 1990s; and

WHEREAS, After leaving the health industry, Marvin Schein established Salmar Properties, LLC with his partner Sal Rusi in 2009; soon after, the business purchased Federal Building No. 2 in Liberty View Plaza and undertook a huge restoration project, making it one of the sleekest industrial buildings in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Today, Liberty View Plaza is home to companies in the hi-tech, fashion, medical sciences and visual arts production sectors, which provide jobs to local residents in the Sunset Park area; through Marvin Schein's dedication to local employment initiatives, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow has been able to secure jobs for numerous graduates; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of the Community Leadership Award, Allen Wright was born and raised in Brooklyn in a union household; he remains committed to those ideals and his commitment to the community where he remains socially and politically active; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Allen Wright earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Brooklyn College, as well as a New York City Teachers license for trade instruction; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 14 Apprenticeship Program, Allen Wright has been a member of Local 14 for nearly two decades; in the course of his training and

career he has worked in all phases of the industry including foundations, road repair, bridge and tunnel rehabilitation, building erection and high-rise crane operations; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Allen Wright has served as the Lead Instructor of IUOE Local 14's Training Program, and most recently, he worked as a Master Mechanic at the World Trade Center Hub Project, where he managed heavy equipment operations; and

WHEREAS, In July of 2013, Allen Wright was re-elected to his post on the union's examining board, and was unanimously selected Political Director for IUOE Local 14 by the Business Manager and The Board of Trustees in December of 2013; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those organizations and individuals 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 commend Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its 4th Annual Summer Soiree, and to pay tribute to its outstanding honorees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow Inc., Marvin Schein, and Allen Wright.