

## 2015-K609

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Saturday, June 6, 2015, as Standing for Peace and Justice Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Saturday June 6, 2015 as Standing for Peace and Justice Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, According to the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, guns were used to murder 11,000 people in 2010 in the United States, the latest year for which statistics are available; 20,000 others used guns to commit suicides that year, and 73,000 were rushed to hospital emergency rooms for gunshot wounds; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, gun violence has claimed the lives of more than 30,000 men, women and children annually; doctors and public health specialist say gun violence is at epidemic levels, calling it a major public-health threat; and

WHEREAS, Residents of urban communities encounter barriers to accessing services and are most frequently denied services; and

WHEREAS, To this end, the National League of Cities, which represents and advocates for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, has crafted a National Municipal Policy on Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, Cities United, the Crime Prevention arm of National League of Cities, envisions mayors and various municipal leaders, forming partnerships with other local officials, community leaders, families, youth, charitable and philanthropic organizations, federal agencies and other

stakeholders within their respective communities to champion strategies to reduce violence, injuries and fatalities among African-American boys and men; and

WHEREAS, In 2013 the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus announced the start of a statewide initiative to reduce gun violence, and the introduction of a joint resolution to mark June as Gun Violence Awareness Month in New York State: stating a Black or Latino youth has a 56% increased likelihood of being injured by gun violence than a motor vehicle accident, this is akin to a Public Health Crisis; and

WHEREAS, A caucus of families impacted by gun violence from the following New York State organizations P.E.A.C.E., Inc. (Parents Encouraging Accountability and Closure for Everyone), Buffalo, New York; Stop Kill'n Start Chill'n, Rochester, New York; Not Another Child (NAC), Brooklyn, New York; PURGE (Parents United to Rally for Gun-violence Elimination), Brooklyn, New York; and Mamas Against Gun Violence, Syracuse, New York, will join Mothers In Charge Inc. in the Standing for Peace and Justice Rally, which will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2015, in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, We recognize that violence and homicide is a Public Health Crisis and in response, support efforts to address this crisis by increasing awareness among all stakeholders to ensure equal protection of our citizens, and to ensure the safety for our youth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Saturday, June 6, 2015, as Standing for Peace and Justice Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.