

## 2015-J2674

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending GallopNYC upon the occasion of hosting its 8th Annual Ride With Pride Horse Show on June 21, 2015

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 commend GallopNYC upon the occasion of hosting its 8th Annual Ride With Pride Horse Show in Central Park on Sunday, June 21, 2015; and

WHEREAS, GallopNYC is a non-profit organization based in New York City which offers therapeutic horsemanship programs to children and adults with disabilities; it particularly works with children, youth, and adults who face developmental, emotional, social, and physical challenges; and

WHEREAS, Participants of the GallopNYC Program have a wide range of disabilities including learning disabilities, such as: autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, and developmental, speech and language delays; this vital organization also works with at-risk teens and children exposed to domestic violence; it serves 300 riders every week and operates its riding program at five New York City locations; and

WHEREAS, Therapeutic horsemanship uses the pleasures and skills of horseback riding and horse knowledge to build developmental, emotional, social, and physical skills for each individual rider; under the direction of a PATH International certified instructor, supported by trained volunteers, each rider progressively acquires riding skills and measurable improvements in life skills; and

WHEREAS, Therapeutic horsemanship involves learning to ride a horse, and building a bond with a horse, as well as becoming knowledgeable about how to care for a horse; it also means understanding how horses perceive the world and respond to people, and being a leader to a horse; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Executive Director, Alicia Kershaw, through weekly sessions, GallopNYC helps riders walk, talk, connect, focus, behave, learn, and have fun; it also offers hippotherapy services; and

WHEREAS, Hippotherapy is a form of physical, occupational and speech therapy in which a therapist uses the characteristic movements of a horse to provide carefully graded motor and sensory input; a foundation is established to improve neurological function and sensory processing, which can be generalized to a wide range of daily activities; and

WHEREAS, GallopNYC has been featured in several major newspapers including THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, THE DAILY NEWS, and THE NEW YORK TIMES; in 2014, this outstanding program was chosen to be recipients of proceeds from the Inaugural Central Park Horse Show, and the first Annual Equus Film Festival; and

WHEREAS, In addition, GallopNYC has appeared on cable channel NY 1, and in an exhibit at the Museum of Natural History; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend GallopNYC upon the occasion of hosting its annual Ride With Pride Horse Show; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Alicia Kershaw, Executive Director, GallopNYC.