

2015-J4808

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Maria Gusenfitter upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2016 Educator of the Year Award by the Bensonhurst West End Community Council on May 4, 2016

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose professional lives, personal endeavors and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, and family; and

WHEREAS, It is also the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in this great State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Maria Gusenfitter upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2016 Educator of the Year Award by the Bensonhurst West End Community Council to be celebrated at its 55th Annual Gala, at El Caribe, Brooklyn, New York, on Wednesday, May 4, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, Maria Gusenfitter was inspired by her nurturing teachers in District 21, Brooklyn, to become an educator; and

WHEREAS, Maria Gusenfitter earned her Bachelor's degree summa cum laude in Science, Letters and Society from the City University of New York, and was the Valedictorian of her graduating class; and

WHEREAS, Maria Gusenfitter furthered her education by obtaining her Master's degree summa cum laude in Elementary Education from the College

of Staten Island; in 2009, she received her Certificate of Advanced Study in Administration and Supervision from the College of Saint Rose; and

WHEREAS, Prior to joining the Department of Education, Maria Gusenfitter worked on Wall Street; in 1993, her life was forever changed when her son, Jack, at 7 months old, was diagnosed with bilateral profound hearing loss; inspired by the dedicated teachers who changed the path of her son's life, Maria returned to college determined to make that type of impact on children; and

WHEREAS, In September of 2000, Maria Gusenfitter began her public school career as a fifth grade teacher at PS 177; three years later, she was recognized by Community School District 21 as an exemplary teacher and her lessons were featured in PROMOTING EXCELLENCE THROUGH BEST PRACTICES; and

WHEREAS, After six years in the classroom, Maria Gusenfitter was asked to become the Staff Developer at PS 177, as she fully understood the challenges of teaching and the support teachers needed in raising student achievement; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Maria Gusenfitter served as an Instructional Lead for her school with Children's First Network 409; this experience provided a tremendous opportunity for professional growth, as well as an opportunity to learn about leadership from two extraordinary educators, Neal Opromalla and Ann Marie Lettieri-Baker; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, Maria Gusenfitter was proudly appointed Assistant Principal at PS 177 where she is proud to be part of a collaborative professional learning community where everyone is committed to providing a nurturing learning environment for all students; and

WHEREAS, When she is not at work, Maria Gusenfitter serves as the Financial Secretary for the Manresa Chapter of the Columbiettes, a volunteer, not-for-profit organization which supports a variety of charities in the community, many of which involve children; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout has been her motivating son, Jack, who feels privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, Assistant Principal Maria Gusenfitter and her dedicated staff continue to build a collaborative professional learning community, committed to providing a rigorous and supportive learning environment for all of the students that the school serves; and

WHEREAS, Maria Gusenfitter has brought great credit upon herself by continually demonstrating an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unremitting enthusiasm for the quality of the educational programs and opportunities offered at the schools where she has served; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her professional service, a period of constructive involvement, Maria Gusenfitter has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues, family and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Maria Gusenfitter upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2016 Educator of the Year Award by the Bensonhurst West End Community Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Maria Gusenfitter.