

2015-J4812

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Carmine Santa Maria upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 36 years of dedicated service to the Bensonhurst West End Community Council on May 4, 2016

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Carmine Santa Maria upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 36 years of dedicated service to 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, Carmine Santa Maria raised his loving family while he attended Kingsborough Community College under the GI Bill, earning an Associate in Arts degree with honors; and

WHEREAS, For the past 56 years, Carmine Santa Maria has been an enthusiastic and hard-working community leader in Bensonhurst, serving as both President of the Bensonhurst West End Community Council and President/Founder of the Big Screechers; in addition, he served as President of the Harway Terrace Co-op, as well as a member and President of Community Education Council District 21; and

WHEREAS, Since 1989, Carmine Santa Maria has been a member of Community School Board 21, and has held the title of President for the last six years; he was also the Chairman of the Borough President's Transit Advisory Committee, and as such, served on the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA and the New York City Transit Riders Advisory Board

for 15 years, representing Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Carmine Santa Maria has been writing a weekly column "Big Screechers" in the Brooklyn Graphic since 1988, and is also the publicist for the Brooklyn Columbus Parade Committee; and

WHEREAS, A teacher of ballroom dancing for 55 years, Carmine Santa Maria spent 18 years at the Federation of Italian American Organizations of Brooklyn, was trained at the Arthur Murray Dance Studios, and taught at all the major dance studios, as well as in the Catskill Mountain resorts, including the Concord Resort and Hotel, Grossinger's Catskill Resort and Brown's Hotel; he has also taught students at PS 128 and PS 212, and offered a course for teachers at Community School District 21; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man proudly served as a member of Community Education Council 21; his civic, public relations, and extended school board experience was instrumental in the growth and prospering of this fledging community education council; and

WHEREAS, Carmine Santa Maria founded and instituted Project L.E.A.R.N. in District 21, which was a premiere showcase teaching youngsters to "Let's End All Racism Now"; in addition, for the past 22 years, he has enjoyed dressing up in a Santa Claus suit, visiting local schools and Boy Scout Troops; and

WHEREAS, Carmine Santa Maria's steadfast and unremitting commitment to his community has earned him numerous honors and awards; he was proudly installed in both the Brooklyn Hall of Fame and the Kingsborough Community College Wall of Fame, and served as a Grand Marshal at the Brooklyn Columbus Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his loving wife of 49 years, Sharon, and their two children, Carl (Lori) and Dana (Michael), as well

as their six grandchildren, Alexa, Jake, Michael, Cassandra, Vanessa, and Dean, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Carmine Santa Maria has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those 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 Carmine Santa Maria upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after 36 years of dedicated service to the Benson-hurst West End Community Council on May 4, 2016; and be it further

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