

## 2015-J5151

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 21st Anniversary of the Noel Pointer Foundation on June 23, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that organizations that give positive definition to the profile and disposition of the communities of the State of New York profoundly strengthen our society with their commitment; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 21st Anniversary of the Noel Pointer Foundation, to be feted at a Music Matters Annual Gala Celebration on Thursday, June 23, 2016, at BAM Fisher, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion will honor several individuals who have continuously cast a positive impact on their community and have displayed an unbridled enthusiasm in supporting the Noel Pointer Foundation, including Jonathan Batiste, bandleader for the Stephen Colbert Late Show; Lisa Yancey, Cultural Consultant; and Alfred Edmonds, Jr., Vice President, Black Enterprise; in addition, Phantazia String Players will entertain the guests; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1995, The Noel Pointer Foundation (NPF) was founded in memory of celebrated jazz violinist, educator and humanitarian, Noel Pointer; it is the only not-for-profit organization of its kind represented within the five boroughs of New York City; and

WHEREAS, Headquartered in Brooklyn, New York, NPF was built on the premise that through the learning of string music our youth would be empowered, thereby strengthening and creating positive change within families and communities; and

WHEREAS, For over two decades, NPF has strived to enrich our children's musical, cultural and academic experience by infusing them with a positive sense of who they are and a boundless sense of who they can

become and what they can achieve; it works to empower our children one note at a time; and

WHEREAS, From its inception, NPF awarded scholarships to aspiring violinists, enabling them to continue their education in music; in 1998, it realized another distinct need by establishing the Noel Pointer School of Music (NPSOM) to provide motivated children from economically disadvantaged neighborhoods with intensive musical instruction; and

WHEREAS, NPSOM is proud to offer its students an experience in cultural enrichment that enhances academic learning, social development and personal expression; this goal is met by supplementing instrumental instruction with music theory, music appreciation and music history; and

WHEREAS, NPSOM also believes that it is imperative to give our children multiple opportunities to showcase their talents and share intimate visits with established performing artists in the genre of string music; and

WHEREAS, Beginning with a single program of only 18 students, NPSOM has successfully created music programs in 28 New York City public and charter schools in all five boroughs, serving more than 30,000 students; in addition, it offers a summer program and has added a Saturday program which has proved to be quite popular with children in the various communities it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of NPF is in direct correlation to the efforts of its 23 teaching artists, two Artistic Directors and five full-time staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of this vital institution and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Executive Director/CEO, Chinita J. Pointer, NPF continues to positively affect the lives of our children, maintaining a strong commitment to its mission while bringing enjoyment through music to our children and their families, each and

every day; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting that we take time to celebrate the arts of our Nation, to honor our artists, and to express our appreciation to everyone who patronizes the arts; and as we celebrate the arts, we celebrate and give thanks to our American freedom, the only atmosphere in which artists can truly create and in which art is truly the expression of the soul; 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 commemorate the 21st Anniversary of the Noel Pointer Foundation on June 23, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Chinita J. Pointer, Executive Director/CEO, the Noel Pointer Foundation.