2015-J5263

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Brooklyn Public Library upon the occasion of its designation as winner of the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary institutions whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, The success enjoyed by the Brooklyn Public Library is in direct correlation to the efforts of the many individuals who have supported the development of the library over the years; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Brooklyn Public Library upon the occasion of its designation as winner of the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service; this prestigious award will be conferred at a ceremony in Washington D.C. in June of 2016; and

WHEREAS, The National Medal for Museum and Library Services is the highest award of its kind, and honors outstanding institutions which make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities; selected institutions demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service, exceeding expectations for community outreach; and

WHEREAS, For over a century, Brooklyn Public Library has been an urban destination connecting people to the world of books, fostering delight and curiosity, while developing in young people an appreciation for knowledge and information; and

WHEREAS, Brooklyn Public Library was selected by the Institute of

Museum and Library Services based on its efforts to meet the wide-ranging needs of a diverse Borough, including its many resources for immigrants and non-native speakers of English; and

WHEREAS, As an independent system with 60 branches, separate from the New York City and Queens libraries, Brooklyn Public Library serves the Borough's 2.5 million residents, offering thousands of public programs, millions of books and use of more than 1,100 free Internet-accessible computers; it is the fifth largest library system in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Every day this esteemed institution connects thousands of people to the resources and tools that they need to achieve their goals; for those who want to learn a new language, it offers English classes and world language instruction; it helps children learn to read through its early literacy programs and to achieve better grades through one-on-one homework help; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Brooklyn Public Library provides a gateway to technology to thousands of Brooklynites through its free wireless internet and 1,100 internet-accessible public computers; it helps people learn new technology skills at the Shelby White and Leon Levy Information Commons and connects jobseekers with employers who are hiring through its Workforce1 Career Centers; it also hosts Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, world-renowned musicians and acclaimed visual and performing artists as part of its cultural and recreational programs; and

WHEREAS, Equally commendable are the Brooklyn Public Library's superbly-skilled staff, whose involvement is and has always been characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all of their efforts on behalf of the library and the population it serves; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Brooklyn Public Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Brooklyn Public Library upon the occasion of its designation as winner of the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Brooklyn Public Library.