

2015-J5267

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Brooklyn Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its 49th Founders' Day Observance Luncheon and paying tribute to this year's honorees on May 14, 2016

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those vital organizations within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals and organizations 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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Brooklyn Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its 49th Founders' Day Observance Luncheon and paying tribute to this year's honorees on Saturday, May 14, 2016, at Gargiulos Restaurant, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The theme for this auspicious occasion is entitled "71 Years of L.E.T.S. - Legendary Epic Tenacious Sisterhood"; and

WHEREAS, This year's honorees include: Janice Williams, 2nd Vice President/Youth Advisor, the Appreciation Award; Monique Greenwood, CEO of AKWAABA House, the Business Award; Seth Hill, CEO, Hakeem Services, Inc., the Community Service Award; Reverend Steven Eugene Carter, Senior Pastor, Mount Ararat Baptist Church, the Ecumenical Award; Andrea Piper, Principal, Acorn Community High School, the Education Award; Oshun D. Layne, Manager of Exhibitions and Programs, RUSH Philanthropic Art Foundation, the Professional Award; Sherif Fraser, District Manager, New York City Community Board 17, the Sojourner Truth Award; Aziza Pope, Mt.

Sinai Baptist Church Youth Usher; the Youth Award; and Vincent Riggins, President, Brite Leadership Coalition, East New York, the Man of Distinction Award; and

WHEREAS, The Brooklyn Club is a chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC, Inc.); and

WHEREAS, The NANBPWC, Inc. provides opportunities for women to increase their leadership skills, experience governance and parliamentary procedures, and enhance their educational awareness of issues impacting the black community through volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, The trailblazing concept of a national organization of black business and professional women was first developed in 1934 by the late Emma Odessa Young, a realtor from New York City and a member of the New York Club of Business and Professional Women; and

WHEREAS, In July of 1935, Ollie Chinn Porter, president of the New York Club, built on the idea and extended an invitation to other local clubs organized as Business and Professional Women's Clubs, to join and form a national organization; and

WHEREAS, The extraordinary and visionary founders of the NANBPWC, Inc. were: Emma Odessa Young, Ollie Chinn Porter and Effie Diton of New York City; Bertha Perry Rhodes, Josephine B. Keene and Adelaide Flemming of Philadelphia; and Goldeana Pearle Flipping of Atlantic City; and

WHEREAS, After a year of meetings, the first convention was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, from July 9-11, 1936, at the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church; the aim of this newly formed national organization was then, as it is today, to attract women of high caliber to organize similar clubs within their communities; and

WHEREAS, The NANBPWC's daring and inspiring goals were to share their experiences and exchange information, to protect their interests, and to

encourage and develop opportunities for black women in businesses and professions, high aspirations indeed given the realities of the time;

and

WHEREAS, The founders of the NANBPWC, Inc. were owners, managers, college graduates, and other professionally licensed women, who had managed to realize some measure of personal success at a time when very few black people had businesses or professions, many were still deep in the throes of the depression, and there was no national movement to improve the lot of black Americans; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the NANBPWC, Inc. has grown in numbers and scope, continuing to encourage black economic independence, and performing many needed community service activities that go far beyond the original purpose; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of President, Dr. Kim Best, Ph.D., JD, the members of the Brooklyn Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., in the tradition of their bold founders, serve with a spirit, faith and determination that is unparalleled; and

WHEREAS, Through its diligence and exemplary endeavors over the course of 49 years, the Brooklyn Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., has truly become an indispensable asset to its community; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proudly moved to honor the members, past and present, of the Brooklyn Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., who have labored so conscientiously to improve the quality of life for the community it serves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Brooklyn Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its 49th Founders' Day Observance Luncheon and paying tribute to this year's honorees on May 14, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Kim Best, Ph.D., JD, President, the Brooklyn Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs,

Inc., and to the aforementioned honorees.