

## 2015-J5461

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Lesley Massiah-Arthur upon the occasion of her designation as Distinguished Alumna in Political Science by Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those 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 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 Lesley Massiah-Arthur upon the occasion of her designation as Distinguished Alumna in Political Science by Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, to be celebrated at its Annual Alumni Dinner & Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 13, 2016, at the New York State Museum, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born in Washington, D.C. and raised in the Bronx, New York, Lesley Massiah-Arthur is the Associate Vice President for Government Relations and Urban Affairs at Fordham University; she is the first African-American to hold the Associate Vice President title in Fordham's history; and

WHEREAS, Prior to her tenure at Fordham, Lesley Massiah-Arthur worked for the New York State Assembly Ways and Means Committee as a legislative budget analyst specializing in housing, judiciary and higher education issues; and

WHEREAS, Lesley Massiah-Arthur has distinguished herself as one of the leading lobbyists for higher education in New York State; from economic

development, to education law, to scientific research, she impresses many with her in-depth understanding of complex issues that face the higher education industry; and

WHEREAS, Whether it is Pell grants, the New York State Tuition Assistance Program, the Higher Education Opportunity Program, START-UP NY, the DREAM Act, or securing funding sources for Fordham's own institutional goals, the energy and passion Lesley Massiah-Arthur brings to any cause is infinite; and

WHEREAS, Beyond her work for Fordham, Lesley Massiah-Arthur has lent her time and influence towards a number of initiatives including voter registration, after-school and summer programming for local youth, and improving services for one of New York City's largest Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC); and

WHEREAS, Lesley Massiah-Arthur received her bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Albany and studied at the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy before receiving her Master of Arts degree from Fordham University; and

WHEREAS, A 2009 Coro Fellow, Lesley Massiah-Arthur also holds professional certificates from Yale University and the University at Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Lesley Massiah-Arthur has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including the Women of Distinction Award, the Outstanding Service Award, and the Ernst & Young Inclusive Excellence Award for Accounting and Business School Faculty, Honors; and

WHEREAS, Active within her community, Lesley Massiah-Arthur is a member of the American Political Science Association, National Conference of Black Political Scientists, American Association of Political

Consultants, Government Affairs Professionals, and the New York Women's Foundation; and

WHEREAS, In addition, she has served as a board member for the Coro National Alumni Association and as a board member for the Union Communi-

ty Health Center; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, 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 honor Lesley Massiah-Arthur upon the occasion of her designation as Distinguished Alumna in Political Science by Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lesley Massiah-Arthur.