

2015-J6218

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Bette Stoltz posthumously upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the North Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District on June 16, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Bette Stoltz posthumously upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the North Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District, to be celebrated at its 30th Year Anniversary Annual Meeting, on Thursday, June 16, 2016, at Barclays Center, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, This year, the North Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District will honor the memory of Bette Stoltz, a longtime neighborhood leader who played a key role in Smith Street's resurgence as a commercial corridor; she died on November 19, 2015, at the age of 74; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, Bette Stoltz served as Executive Director of the South Brooklyn Local Development Corporation, and pushed for the revitalization of Smith Street championing "The Little Street That Could"; she was also founder of the Transit Garden at Smith Street and Second Place and organized events such as Smith Street's Sunday Funday street fair, local Bastille Day celebrations and a soup crawl; and

WHEREAS, Bette Stoltz was a champion for manufacturing and industrial space; she knew that space was needed for industrial businesses in Red Hook and Gowanus, and she fought hard against efforts to undermine it; and

WHEREAS, Single-handedly preventing the residential conversion of 160 Imlay Street to condos, Bette Stoltz helped launch the fight to preserve manufacturing in South Brooklyn and around the City of New York; and
WHEREAS, Bette Stoltz was a hardworking advocate for small businesses; for several decades, she helped small businesses on Smith and Court Streets to stay strong in the face of disinvestment, chain stores, street reconstructions, and gentrification, and for several years, she helped organize the effort to create a Business Improvement District on Smith and Court Streets; and

WHEREAS, A true public servant, Bette Stoltz helped people find work; she was instrumental in establishing a partnership to connect public housing and other low-income residents with job opportunities which led to the creation of Red Hook on the Road, a program helping people get good-paying jobs as commercial drivers, Brooklyn Networks, an in-network cable installation, and First Source Staffing, a not-for-profit staffing agency which focuses on placing people with barriers to employment; and
WHEREAS, Over the past decade, under the leadership of Aaron Shiffman at Brooklyn Workforce Innovations, each of Bette Stoltz's championed programs have helped over 5,000 low-income community residents find good jobs; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Bette Stoltz has been committed to assisting low-income kids; for 25 years, she helped youngsters from NYCHA's Red Hook, Gowanus and Wyckoff Houses by leveraging her connections in the business community to help kids get internships, and to support those kids and help them succeed; and

WHEREAS, Bette Stoltz's proudest accomplishment was the creation of the Culinary Arts Program at the High School for International Studies, a program which has helped hundreds of kids get excited about school,

discover talents they did not know they had, build real-world skills and find valuable internships and jobs; and

WHEREAS, The North Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District (BID)

was formed over 35 years ago by a group of committed citizens who joined forces to improve the area known as North Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn, New York; the group was comprised of merchants, property owners and residents who were concerned about keeping Flatbush Avenue a vibrant commercial district; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, the members of the Board of Directors have struggled to create a cohesive identity for the North Flatbush Avenue BID that would be responsive to the changing demographic without losing long-time businesses, and to create an atmosphere that is rich with "Brooklyn" spirit; and

WHEREAS, The North Flatbush Avenue BID's dedicated and professional staff are led by President, Regina Cahill, and a Board of Directors comprised of community residents, merchants, and business leaders who are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all members of the North Flatbush community; 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 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 honor Bette Stoltz posthumously upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the North Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District on June 16, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Bette Stoltz.