

## 2017-J1700

Senate Resolution No. 1700

BY: Senator KENNEDY

HONORING Reverend Justo Gonzalez II upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Coalition for Economic Justice on May 18, 2017

WHEREAS, The spiritual guidance and nurturing of the citizens of the State of New York is of great importance to the vitality and well-being of our communities; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those men and women of religious commitment who accept the responsibility of moral leadership and render the wisdom of human understanding; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Reverend Justo Gonzalez II upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Coalition for Economic Justice on Thursday, May 18, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Pastor of Pilgrim-St. Luke's and El Neuvo Camino United Church of Christ in Elmwood Village, Reverend Justo Gonzalez II brings sincerity and compassion to his pastoral ministry, coaching, consulting, and community outreach; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his 26 years as an ordained minister, Reverend Justo Gonzalez II has served in several capacities including as a motivational speaker, retreat leader, and both a preacher and facilitator within the private and public sector; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Reverend Justo Gonzalez II serves as a staunch advocate on such issues as justice and peace, educational justice, restorative justice, immigrant rights, LGBTQI, as well as women's and workers' rights; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Justo Gonzalez II received a Bachelor's degree in Media Communications from Medaille College in 1983; he went on to earn his Master's degree in Social Administration from Case Western Reserve University in 1993, and his Divinity degree from the Iliff School of Theology in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, he received a Pastoral Ministry degree from Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, New York; he has also earned Doctor of Ministry credit hours from Barry University in Miami, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Singular in distinction is Reverend Justo Gonzalez II, whose service to his church and his people, and his involvement in his community mirror a commitment of compelling dimension; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Reverend Justo Gonzalez II upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Coalition for Economic Justice on May 18, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Justo Gonzalez II.