

## 2017-J5825

Senate Resolution No. 5825

BY: Senator MONTGOMERY

COMMENDING Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center, Inc.

upon the occasion of celebrating its 40th

Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those institutions which have faithfully served the health needs of the community and its citizens with diligence and compassionate commitment; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center, Inc. upon the occasion of celebrating its 40th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, For four decades, Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center, Inc., a non-profit community health center, has strived to meet the needs of patients and their families from the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn, and live up to its promise of delivering the very best patient experiences with compassionate care; and

WHEREAS, The predecessor organization to Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center, Inc. was started in 1978, when a group of concerned citizens under the leadership of Dr. Josephine English an OB/GYN, organized Health is a Right for Everyone, Inc. (H.I.R.E. Inc.), which provided

basic primary health care services including physical exams, immunizations, well-child care and prenatal care; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, H.I.R.E. relocated to 650 Fulton Street and the center's name was changed to Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center, Inc. (BPMC), and later, officially adopted in 1989; two years later, BPMC qualified as a preferred Primary Care Provider and became a Medicaid Managed Care Provider; and

WHEREAS, Over the last 40 years, the BPMC has grown considerably; this vital medical center currently offers health care and support services including adult medicine, pediatric and adolescent medicine, geriatric care, dental, women's health including prenatal care and family planning, behavioral health, podiatry, social work and nutrition counseling; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, under a grant from the New York State Department of Health and The AIDS Institute, services offered to HIV positive patients were expanded to include HIV/AIDS primary medical care, case management, support groups, substance abuse counseling and community outreach; this was the genesis of the center's Rising Heights Program; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, renovations were made to the first floor and the central site expanded an additional 8,500 square feet of operating space; in 1997, BPMC opened a School-Based Health Center (SBHC) at the Benjamin Banneker Academy located at 77 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, BPMC was awarded a Healthy Schools/Healthy Communities grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration in September of 2001; subsequently, the

center opened the Whitman, Ingersoll, Farragut Health Center (WIFHC) which covered the public housing developments located at 297 Myrtle Ave. in Fort Greene; and

WHEREAS, The success of the BPMC is in direct correlation to the efforts of its 15-member volunteer Board of Directors led by Chair, Judge Theresa Holmes-Simmons, and its staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the institution and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, Entering its 40th year, the BPMC remains true in purpose and strong in spirit, taking just pride in its excellent facilities, dedicated staff and laudable history of quality health care; and

WHEREAS, Venerable and trustworthy institutions, tending to the needs of the community and its citizenry, represent the threads from which the fabric of society is woven, and so now is this Legislative Body moved to recognize the beneficent good works of the BPMC, sharing the pride of its history and accomplishments, and anticipating its future of continued growth in quality and personalized care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to extend congratulations and just tribute to Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center, Inc. commemorating its 40th Anniversary of service and care on behalf of the Brooklyn community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Judge Theresa Holmes-Simmons, Chair, Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center, Inc. Board of Directors.