

2013-J252

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Prospect Park Alliance upon the occasion of celebrating its 25th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 organizations and 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 long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Prospect Park Alliance upon the occasion of celebrating its 25th Anniversary, to be observed at the Prospect Park Anniversary Ball on Saturday, November 10, 2012; and

WHEREAS, In partnership with the City of New York and the community, the Prospect Park Alliance restores, develops, and operates Prospect Park for the enjoyment of all by caring for the natural environment, preserving historic design, and serving the public through facilities and programs; and

WHEREAS, The Prospect Park Alliance was formed in 1987 to restore the Park after years of budget cuts and a steady deterioration of both its natural areas and usage; and

WHEREAS, By supplementing the Park's basic operating budget with private funds, the Alliance has initiated a large array of capital projects and community programs; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, the Alliance has boosted public awareness of the crucial role parks play in the urban environment, while gaining support from donors and volunteers for the restoration projects that have brought Prospect Park back to prominence; and

WHEREAS, The Alliance has not only been active in the restoration of Prospect Park's physical well-being, but also its transformation into an important cultural institution; and

WHEREAS, It was instrumental in the restoration of the 1912 Carousel, the transformation of Lefferts Historic House into the first children's historic house museum in the United States, the renovation of the Park's

playgrounds, and the capital campaign to save Brooklyn's only forest - a restoration of 150 acres of ailing woodlands in the Park's Ravine; and WHEREAS, The Prospect Park Alliance formed a trailblazing partnership with the National Audubon Society that resulted in the nation's first urban Audubon Center, which opened in 2002 at the Park's historic Boat-house; and

WHEREAS, Recent successful projects instituted by the Alliance include the renovation of Bailey Fountain in Grand Army Plaza, the complete reconstruction of the 40-acre Parade Ground, and a brand new Tennis Center; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the planning process is now underway to replace the Park's beloved Wollman Rink with a new Lakeside Center; and

WHEREAS, The Alliance's efforts combined with the support of many business partners, private donors, and Alliance members, have increased use of the Park by 300 percent, while making critical improvements to its fragile ecosystem and preserving its historic and architectural treasures; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Prospect Park Alliance upon the occasion of celebrating its 25th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Prospect Park Alliance.