

2013-J554

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Linda Leest upon the occasion of her retirement after 28 years of distinguished service to Services Now for Adult Persons, Inc.

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr.

Linda Leest upon the occasion of her retirement after 28 years of distinguished service to Services Now for Adult Persons, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Leest has been the President/CEO of Services Now for Adult Persons, Inc. (SNAP) since 1985; under her leadership, SNAP has grown both in size and in scope of services, from case management, home-delivered meals and transportation, to include the Floral Park, the Bell Park and the Queens Village Senior Centers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Leest has been a professional social worker and administrator in the field of gerontology for 32 years; she earned a Master of Social Work degree and a doctorate in social welfare from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University, where she has served as an adjunct professor; and

WHEREAS, Linda Leest was born and raised in the Bronx where she met her future husband Steven; she attended Hunter College High School and Hunter College in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, After taking some time off from academia to start a family, Dr. Leest reentered the workforce as a teacher in Co-Op City, the Bronx; prior to working at SNAP, she was a social worker at the Jewish Association for Services to the Aged (JASA) in both Coney Island and eastern Queens; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her success as a President/CEO, Dr. Leest always recognized the need for advocacy to meet the growing and emerging needs of the elderly; she currently serves a leadership role on many boards, and is a member of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Aging; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Leest is past President of the New York State Aging Services Advisory Committee, the Queens Interagency Council on Aging and the New York State Coalition for the Aging; she was presented with the prestigious statewide Henrietta Rabe award in June 2001 for recognition as a leader in the field of aging, and also was named the 2001 Outstanding Social Worker in Queens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Leest was also presented with a Declaration of Honor in 2001; in 2005, she was presented with the Maggie Kuhn award from Presbyterian Senior Services for distinguished services on behalf of the elderly, and in 2008, received the Rose Kryzak Leadership Award for years of dedicated service and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as President/CEO, Linda Leest served with loyalty, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Along with her husband, Steven, with her throughout have been their three sons and four grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure with Services Now for Adult Persons, Inc., Linda Leest earned the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Linda Leest upon the occasion of her retirement after 28 years of distinguished service to Services Now for Adult Persons, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Linda Leest.