

2013-J703

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the YWCA of Brooklyn

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those illustrious organizations and individuals of the State of New York whose purposeful endeavors serve to enhance the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the YWCA of Brooklyn, to be celebrated on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at the Roulette Theater in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1888, the YWCA of Brooklyn is the only YWCA in the borough of Brooklyn, and is also one of the oldest in New York State; each year a significant amount of women, men, and children take advantage of a broad mix of programs, including: health and wellness programs, youth development and affordable housing for single women; and WHEREAS, In 1943, the YWCA of Brooklyn became the first YWCA in the country to racially integrate its program and in 1946, its residence hall for women was formally desegregated; this proud tradition of integration and commitment continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, The YWCA of Brooklyn offers programs and services to meet the needs of the women, men and children of the community; it encourages all to participate, yet remains true to its mission of empowering women and girls, with particular focus on gender equity and racial justice; and

WHEREAS, Programs for women dedicated to fitness and health include: Encore Plus, the breast cancer and cervical cancer prevention program which offers workshops and referrals; Sister Strength, aimed at reducing the incidence of heart disease, obesity, and diabetes in low-income women in central Brooklyn; Senior Fit, which focuses on fitness and disease prevention for fixed-income seniors; and fitness classes including swimming, martial arts, dance and yoga, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, The YWCA has established a youth-led leadership program for young women, the Young Women's Leadership Academy, to promote leadership

training, financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills; the after school and summer camp programs continue to provide programs for tutoring, swimming, music, dance and art classes; and

WHEREAS, The YWCA of Brooklyn also provides a welcoming gathering place for community meetings, events and parties; it has served a racially and economically diverse population since its inception, and today, it continues to fight for social justice; 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 the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the YWCA of Brooklyn; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the YWCA of Brooklyn.