

## 2023-J1175

Senate Resolution No. 1175

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING Medina Court No. 11 upon the occasion  
of hosting its 112th Annual Ball, honoring  
Illustrious Commandress Dt. Vanessa C. Vanderhorst  
on July 29, 2023

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 Medina Court No. 11 upon the occasion of hosting its 112th  
Annual Ball honoring Illustrious Commandress Dt. Vanessa C. Vanderhorst  
to be celebrated on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at the LaGuardia Plaza  
Hotel in Queens, New York; and

WHEREAS, Medina Court was organized as Naja Court No. 11 in the  
Desert of New York, Oasis of Manhattan, on October 11, 1909; Bessie  
Little, assisted by Francis Butler and 14 members formed a chapter which  
was warranted by Medina Temple No. 19, A.E.A.O.N.M.S. of North and South  
America, and Past Imperial Potentate Eugene Phillips (1910-1913) was the  
Illustrious Potentate of Medina Temple No. 19 at the time; and

WHEREAS, In August of 1910, Naja Court became a charter member of the Grand Court, Daughters of Isis in Detroit, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Dt. Francis Butler, who succeeded Dt. Bessie Little as Commandress, went on to become the eighth Grand Commandress of the Grand Court and the only Past Grand Commandress from this Oasis; and

WHEREAS, In 1946, after 20 Commandresses had served, Naja Court took the name of its Temple and was renamed Medina Court No. 11; a new charter was issued, and Dt. Lyndall Bailey became the first Illustrious Commandress of the court we know today; and

WHEREAS, Vanessa C. Vanderhorst became a member of Rebecca Chapter No.23, Prince Hall Order Eastern Star, Inc. on April 6, 2012; she served as Worthy Matron 2020-2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, In August of 2014, Vanessa C. Vanderhorst became a member of Medina Court No. 11 and currently serves as the 112th Illustrious Commandress of this historic court, which is the oldest court in the desert/state of New York and is known as the Mother of Northern Deserts; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Illustrious Commandress Dt. Vanessa C. Vanderhorst, Medina Court No. 11 has been actively involved with the Bronx, and Harlem, New York, communities and metro areas; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her role as Illustrious Commandress, Vanessa C. Vanderhorst serves as both historian and deputy of Desert of New York, and historian of Medina Court No. 11; and

WHEREAS, For her steadfast and unrelenting commitment to her court

and her community, Illustrious Commandress Dt. Vanessa C. Vanderhorst has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including being named a 2023 Daughter of Distinction, Medina Court No. 11 Daughter of the Year, and the Supporter Service Award from the Imperial National Community Health Initiative; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations and individuals 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 Medina Court No. 11 upon the occasion of hosting its 112th Annual Ball, honoring Illustrious Commandress Dt. Vanessa C. Vanderhorst; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Medina Court No. 11 and Illustrious Commandress Dt. Vanessa C. Vanderhorst.