

2023-J2477

Senate Resolution No. 2477

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING the Wyckoff House Museum upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Pinkster Festival on May 25, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those organizations of historic significance whose dedicated contributions have helped further the cultural enrichment of our communities and our Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Wyckoff House Museum upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Pinkster Festival on Saturday, May 25, 2024, in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Pinkster Festival is a 350-year-old little-known Africanized celebration that took place annually in New York for almost 200 years; Pinkster is Dutch for the Christian holiday of Pentecost, the commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus, prompting them to "speak in tongues" and go forth spreading their joyous message; it is considered to be the beginning of the formal Christian church and, according to the Christian calendar, Pentecost/Pinkster occurs annually 50 days after Easter; and

WHEREAS, These observations began here in New York and in the U.S. as a result of the original Dutch settlers; it was a time when the Dutch

would go to church to observe the Pinkster holiday and they would give their enslaved Africans time off with the freedom to engage in normally unc customary activities; the Africans took this opportunity to celebrate with their own music, dance, and other cultural expressions of their African heritage; and

WHEREAS, The Pinkster Festival evolved into what is likely the oldest openly African holiday celebration in America; these celebrations were outlawed in 1811 before finally disappearing around 1850; and

WHEREAS, The Wyckoff House Museum has been dedicated to reviving this wonderful tradition, tapping into a forgotten cultural history, justly earning the museum this distinct recognition for its unrelenting dedication to its community and residents beyond; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals and 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 Wyckoff House Museum upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Pinkster Festival on May 25, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Wyckoff House Museum.