

2009-J864

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Veronica Montgomery-Costa upon the occasion of receiving the 2009 Leadership Award from the Federation of African American Civil Service Organizations, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the efforts of those individuals who distinguish themselves in service to the cause of working men and women in 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 Veronica Montgomery-Costa upon the occasion of receiving the 2009 Leadership Award from the Federation of African American Civil Service Organizations, Inc. at its 54th Annual Dinner Dance to be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at Riccardo's Restaurant in Astoria, New York; and WHEREAS, Veronica Montgomery-Costa has continually demonstrated extreme competence, extraordinary intelligence and diligent leadership in her unwavering service to District Council 37 as well as the Department of Education Employees Local 372 and consequently has been designated for this most prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, A Harlem native and 30-year veteran of the Department of Education Employees Local 372, Veronica Montgomery-Costa first began organizing workers in 1974, when she helped bring her substance abuse prevention and intervention specialists (SAPIS) co-workers into the local; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Veronica Montgomery-Costa was instrumental in organizing Local 372's School Crossing Guards and Community Coordinators; recognizing her extraordinary leadership skills, District Council 37's national union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, selected her to help organize public hospital workers in Fort Wayne, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, Veronica Montgomery-Costa proudly served Local 372 as a grievance rep, chapter chair and Executive Board member from 1977 until 1982, when she became a District Council 37 rep, working with all job titles in the local; and

WHEREAS, Veronica Montgomery-Costa served her District Council 37 co-workers as vice president of the Federation of Field Representatives, a staff union, from 1982 to 1986; she then became assistant director of the Schools Division and began negotiating with top management at the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Since 1999, Veronica Montgomery-Costa has headed Local 372, which represents 26,000 public school employees, including school aides, school lunch workers, family paraprofessionals, community coordinators and SAPIS, as well as school crossing guards from the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Veronica Montgomery-Costa was elected as District Council 37's new president in 2002, re-elected in 2004, and was unopposed in the most recent election; she also began her third term as president of Local 372 when she was re-elected in January 2007; and

WHEREAS, Veronica Montgomery-Costa, a woman of singular distinction, whose wisdom, guidance and unparalleled professionalism, have earned her the admiration, esteem, and affection of her colleagues and all those she has come in to contact with during her distinguished service to District Council 37 and the Department of Education Employees Local 372; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, 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 honor Veronica Montgomery-Costa upon the occasion of receiving the 2009 Leadership Award from the Federation of African American Civil Service Organizations, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Veronica Montgomery-Costa.