

## 2009-J373

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Khader El-Yateem upon the occasion of his 10th Anniversary in the ministry, to be celebrated on February 14, 2009

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Khader El-Yateem upon the occasion of his 10th Anniversary in the ministry, to be celebrated on February 14, 2009; and

WHEREAS, A native of the West Bank of Palestine, Khader El-Yateem graduated from high school in 1968, and proceeded to study at the Bethlehem Bible College, where he received a Diploma in Theology, and the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree; and

WHEREAS, Invited by the ELCA to work as a missionary developer among the Arab and Middle Eastern community in the United States, Khader El-Yateem then studied at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, where he received a Master of Divinity degree; and

WHEREAS, Khader El-Yateem was called by the Division For Outreach to start the Salam Arabic Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, New York, in 1999, which became the first official Arabic Lutheran Church in North America; and

WHEREAS, In October 2000, Khader El-Yateem was asked by civic leaders

in the Bay Ridge community to help establish a committee to bring the Christian, Jewish and Arabic communities together to live in peace; he opened his church to all and successfully helped the committee to bring the various groups together; and

WHEREAS, As a result of this successful venture, Khader El-Yateem asked Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes to co-chair a borough-wide Unity Task Force, which has also been successful in bringing together various ethnic and religious groups in the region; and

WHEREAS, With Khader El-Yateem throughout have been his wife, Grace, and their four children, Rowan, Janette, Naim and Isabelle, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Khader El-Yateem has brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Khader El-Yateem upon the occasion of his 10th Anniversary in the ministry, to be celebrated on February 14, 2009 noting his unremit-

ting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community, and extending to him the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and

be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Khader El-Yateem.