

## 2009-K350

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Robert S. Guskind, talented journalist, author, photographer, editor and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Robert S. Guskind of Brooklyn, New York, formerly of Clifton, New Jersey, and Washington, DC, died on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at the age of 50; and

WHEREAS, Born on October 19, 1958, Robert S. Guskind grew up in Clifton, New Jersey; in 1976, he graduated with honors from Clifton High School, and attended Georgetown University's College of Arts and Science, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Robert S. Guskind's journalism career began with the NATIONAL JOURNAL in Washington, DC, and contributed to the syndicated columns for the WASHINGTON POST Writers Group; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards for his outstanding journalistic writings, Robert S. Guskind co-authored a book entitled BREAK-THROUGHS: RECREATING THE AMERICAN CITY, in which he tracked urban success stories across America, from New York City to Lincoln, Nebraska, to Boston's Southwest Corridor; furthermore, he wrote occasional articles for the WASHINGTON POST; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, he was hired by New Community Corporation of Newark; five years later, Robert S. Guskind created the Gowanus Lounge, a community blog, that covered, through words and pictures, whatever moved him, with a particular focus on New York City as it is today and as it is becoming; the focus was on Brooklyn -- and particularly Gowanus, Red

Hook, Carroll Gardens, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Williamsburg and Dumbo; this first blog gave him the position of the Brooklyn editor for CURBED OF NYC; and

WHEREAS, The Gowanus Lounge blog was a community resource that empowered and entertained the local community with intelligence, wit and incisiveness; and

WHEREAS, Robert S. Guskind distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Robert S. Guskind's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; he brought community groups together by providing a Brooklyn-wide context, he empowered the community, and most of all, he was incredibly kind and always listened and offered advice, but never told anyone what they should or should not do; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his father, Jack Guskind, Robert S. Guskind is survived by his wife, Olivia Kissin; his mother, Sally Bellanca Guskind; his sister, Sharon Vitale; brother-in-law, Chris; niece, Shawna; and nephews, Travis and Eric; and his stepsister, Gia Rose Guskind; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Robert S. Guskind leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Robert S. Guskind, talented journalist, author, photographer, editor and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Robert S. Guskind.