

## 2009-J1596

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Queen Pen for her hard work and dedication in the struggle against domestic violence on April 30, 2009

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 individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, From time to time we take note of certain individuals whom we wish to recognize for their valued contributions and to publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor Queen Pen for her hard work and dedication in the struggle against domestic violence at an event to be held Thursday, April 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Lynise Walters, also known as Queen Pen, struggled as a single mother to raise her sons, Donlynn and Quintin; she never gave up on her dreams of becoming an entertainer; she took whatever extra money she had to rent a neighborhood studio and record demos; understanding that demos didn't pay bills or put food on the table, she set out on a totally different journey... life; and

WHEREAS, Years later in the parking lot of a Virginia Beach 7-Eleven, Queen Pen's life began to get on track; Platinum Producer and Recording Artist Teddy Riley stood in amazement when his friend Queen Pen revealed her talents; and

WHEREAS, Two years later, they connected musically; this led to her not only touring across the world, but landing a major recording deal; in 1999, Lil Man Records/Interscope Records released Queen Pen's debut

album "My Melody"; and

WHEREAS, Queen Pen took advantage of her newfound fame; she began to speak in various juvenile prisons, group homes, inner city schools, to victims of domestic violence (being a victim and survivor herself) and facilities for young mothers which have, to date, gotten her recognition from the Mayor of Jersey City, New Jersey; Assemblymen in Harlem and Brooklyn, New York; and the Lieutenant Governor of New York State; as well as several other high risk teen organizations; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, Queen Pen slowly slid off the scene after giving birth to her third child and first daughter, Lyric; "Family comes first.

My fans know I'm real so they understand when I come and go. Trust - they know I'm dealing with life, just like they are"; and

WHEREAS, One year later, she returned, spending a short time with Motown Records, releasing her sophomore album, "Conversations with Queen"; the album featured artists such as Damian and Stephen Marley, Mr. Cheeks, Cam'ron, Prodigy (Mobb Deep), and a host of others; and

WHEREAS, Soon after departing from Motown Records, Queen Pen released her self-published book of short stories entitled SITUATIONS; her creation quickly took off, eventually selling well over 80,000 copies; and

WHEREAS, Being a victim and survivor of domestic violence, Queen Pen has made it her responsibility to not only share her story with other domestic violence victims, but to dedicate her time in various domestic violence organizations; Queen Pen is quoted as saying: "It's so important to share your struggles, pains, and testimony with others. You never know who might be going through the same things you've had to battle and overcome. If only 50 people out of 500 are inspired by your

testimony, you have helped 50 individuals and 50 is always better than none!"; and

WHEREAS, Queen Pen, who released her first novel in 2007, is an inspiration to many people, and her dedication and commitment to the struggle

against domestic violence has proven her to be the epitome of true leadership; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Queen Pen for her hard work and dedication in the struggle against domestic violence at an event to be held Thursday, April 30, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Queen Pen.