

2009-J1269

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Mount Vernon Senior City Court Judge Brenda Dowery-Rodriguez upon the occasion of her retirement after 22 years of distinguished service

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those illustrious individuals of distinguished purpose whose lives have been committed to the pursuit of excellence in their service to 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 Mount Vernon Senior City Court Judge Brenda Dowery-Rodriguez upon the occasion of her retirement after 22 years of distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, Judge Dowery-Rodriguez was born in Shelbyville, Kentucky, and raised in New York, Connecticut and Tennessee; she attended Evander Childs High School in the Bronx and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina; she also attended Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and the New School for Social Research; and

WHEREAS, After working as a social worker in the south Bronx, Judge Dowery-Rodriguez attended Santa Clara University's Law School in Santa Clara, California; upon graduation from Law School in 1975, she returned to New York and served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx District Attorney's Office for three years; thereafter, she opened her own law firm and continued in private practice until her judicial appointment; and

WHEREAS, City Court Judge Brenda Dowery-Rodriguez retired from the bench of the Mount Vernon City Court in February of 2009; she was the first woman of color to sit on the bench of a city court in Westchester County; she was first appointed as an Associate City Court Judge of

Mount Vernon by former Mount Vernon Mayor Ronald Blackwood in 1986; thereafter, she successfully ran for City Court Judge of Mount Vernon and was elected to two 10-year terms; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, Judge Dowery-Rodriguez presided over the first Drug Court in the County of Westchester; with her throughout have been her husband, Peter and their daughter, Paige, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, leadership, and commitment as that demonstrated by Judge Dowery-Rodriguez over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Mount Vernon Senior City Court Judge Brenda Dowery-Rodriguez upon the occasion of her retirement after 22 years of distinguished service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Brenda Dowery-Rodriguez.