

2009-J1099

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Reverend Samuel Alicea upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Hispanic Clergy Organization on April 11, 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 Reverend Samuel Alicea upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Hispanic Clergy Organization at its 21st Anniversary Celebration to be held on Saturday, April 11, 2009, at the Maestro's Caterers, Bronx, New York; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Alicea 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, After attending Rutgers University where he studied Criminology, Reverend Alicea began his career as a Senior Corrections Officer for the State of New Jersey; in 1991, he joined the Vineland City Police Department where he was a field training officer and worked in the crime scene investigations unit; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Alicea is currently retired but continues to be involved in law enforcement as a police clergy liaison for the New York

City Police Department; and

WHEREAS, A third generation minister, Reverend Alicea's grandfather, the late Reverend Pedro Ocasio Sr., and his father, Bishop Mariano Alicea Sr., were pivotal figures in his decision to embark on ministry; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Alicea's ministerial endeavors began in 1989, while he was attending La Vid Verdadera Church, which at the time was ministered by his parents, Rev. and Mrs. Mariano Alicea Sr.; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, Reverend Alicea began several ministries at the New Vision Church of God; here, he started a children's ministry which began with 12 children and a small church van and would later grow to serve over 300 children with five school buses for transportation; and

WHEREAS, It was here that Reverend Alicea founded U.T.I. (under the influence) youth ministries, a ministry for youth that was based on drama presentations and human strength acts; centered on reaching inner city youth with a positive message, the group has performed in local parks, street corners, schools and concerts; over the years as its message spread, its audience grew; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Alicea led the team of youth for several years as they performed throughout several states and Canada; he would later relocate to the state of Florida where he began the same ministry with a different group of youth at the Liberty Christian Center; and

WHEREAS, This group would travel and minister throughout the state of Florida, Columbia and Venezuela, where they donated countless clothes, shoes, toys and medical supplies to children in numerous orphanages; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, Reverend Alicea was called to pastor the Hopewell Church of God in New Jersey; there he founded Kids Church on Wheels, a mobile Sunday school where the message of Jesus was taken to children

rather than the children coming to church; he also founded Well of Hope Ministries, a ministry that provided summer day camp and a breakfast and lunch program to less fortunate working families who were in need of

summer day care for their children; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, Reverend Alicea relocated to Orlando, Florida; here, he and his wife would continue to be active in ministry but would also begin their endeavors in business; they founded S.E.A. Enterprises & Associates Inc. and started their own mortgage company, as well as real estate sales office; Reverend Alicea would later become a very successful project director for a real estate developer in Orlando; and

WHEREAS, In 2007 after the death of his father-in-law, the late Hector Luis Marquez, Reverend Alicea along with his wife, and sister-in-law, Anamaria Marquez, would relocate back to the Bronx, New York to take over the family business, La Paz Funeral Services Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Following in the footsteps of the late Hector Luis Marquez, Reverend Alicea has sponsored numerous community organizations, including: the Altamonte Springs Babe Ruth Little League, A Books Christian Academy, Mt. Dora Babe Ruth Baseball, Ark Productions of New York, Children's Evangelical Christian Parade of New York, New York Hispanic Clergy Organization, New York Police Department Police Explorers, and Kids Against Drugs Baseball League of Brooklyn, New York, as well as many other church and social organizations in the community; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Alicea and his wife, Eileen, are the proud parents of three wonderful children, Sammy Jay, Hector Luis and Krystal Elizabeth; 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 Reverend Samuel Alicea upon the occasion of his designation for

special recognition by the New York Hispanic Clergy Organization, noting his unremitting 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 Reverend Samuel Alicea.