

## 2009-J997

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Joel I. Klein upon the occasion of his designation by the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg as the recipient of the Public Service Award at its 5th Annual Legislative Breakfast on March 29, 2009

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those illustrious individuals of the State of New York who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend Joel I. Klein upon the occasion of his designation for special honor by the United Jewish Organizations (UJO) of Williamsburg as the recipient of its 2009 Public Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Joel I. Klein, Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, will be honored at the UJO's 5th Annual Legislative Breakfast, to be held at The Continental in Brooklyn, New York, on Sunday, March 29, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Since 1966, the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg has provided social and housing services, as well as public health and community development services for the Hassidic community in the greater Williamsburg area; it serves and represents more than 70,000 community residents and 148 civic, religious, educational and charitable organizations serving the Jewish communities of Williamsburg, Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant; and

WHEREAS, Its 5th Annual Legislative Breakfast provides an opportunity to pay tribute to those who have supported the UJO and have helped to further its efforts, as well as those who exemplify its mission of improving the quality of life of the citizens it serves; and

WHEREAS, Born in New York City, Joel Klein attended the city's public schools and graduated from William Cullen Bryant High School in 1963; he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University in 1967, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, and his Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from Harvard Law School in 1971, again graduating magna cum laude; and WHEREAS, Joel Klein became New York City schools Chancellor, the first Chancellor of the newly-reorganized Department of Education, in July 2002 after serving in the highest levels of government and business, and in the public and private practice of law, bringing with him vast and varied experience and expertise and a long-standing interest in educational issues as well as some experience teaching math to 6th Grade students at a public school in Queens; as Chancellor, he oversees more than 1,500 schools with 1.1 million students, 136,000 employees, and a more than 21 billion dollar operating budget; and

WHEREAS, Joel Klein's comprehensive education reform program, Children First, is transforming the nation's largest public school system into a system of great schools; the first steps of the reform effort included ending social promotion in 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 8th Grades; creating a wide array of academic supports for struggling students; establishing new supports for parents, including putting a Parent Coordinator in nearly every school; and expanding small schools and charter schools to provide more educational options for students; and

WHEREAS, The second phase of Children First has involved restructuring the system, changing how schools are operated and supported, and giving principals greater control over how they run their schools while holding them accountable for results, initiatives which have made a real difference for New York City students -- achievement is up, students and fami-

lies have more and better choices, schools are safer, and principals are more empowered; and

WHEREAS, Active in community service work in addition to his many other responsibilities, Joel Klein has participated in Big Brothers,

served as Chairman of the Board of the Green Door, a pioneer community-based treatment program for mentally ill residents of the District of Columbia, and as Treasurer of the World Federation for Mental Health; he has also served on the boards of several non-profit organizations, including the National Symphony Orchestra Association and was a member of a 1991 U.S. Department of State delegation which examined issues of psychiatric abuse in the Soviet Union; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Joel I. Klein upon the occasion of his designation as the recipient of the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg's Public Service Award at its 5th Annual Legislative Breakfast on March 29, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joel I. Klein.