

2009-J4686

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 51st Anniversary of the Westchester Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

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 organizations and individuals that are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 51st Anniversary of the Westchester Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated on Sunday, April 18, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded on January 13, 1913, by 22 collegiate women at Howard University; these students wanted to use their collective strength to promote academic excellence and to provide assistance to persons in need; the first public act performed by the Delta Founders involved their participation in the Women's Suffrage March in Washington, D.C., in March 1913; and

WHEREAS, Officially incorporated in 1930, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world; it is a sisterhood of more than 200,000 predominantly Black college educated women and currently has over 900 chapters located in the United States, England, Japan (Tokyo and Okinawa), Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Republic of Korea; and

WHEREAS, The major programs of Delta Sigma Theta are based upon the organization's five point programmatic thrust: economic development,

educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement; and WHEREAS, Serving the community of Westchester County, New York, the Westchester Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was chartered on October 31, 1959, by 16 visionary women; the chapter has grown considerably, and now boasts 150 members from diverse professional backgrounds who volunteer their education, skills, and talents to serve youth, adults and seniors, and those in need around the global community; and

WHEREAS, The Westchester Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. perpetuates the Sorority's tradition of public service by implementing several programs, which initiate social change, encourage academic excellence and elevate the cultural awareness of the community; its service projects include an annual teen conference, annual "A Toast to Spring" scholarship brunch, back to school clothing drives, voter registration drives, letter-writing campaigns, toy drives, creating Thanksgiving baskets for needy families, female mentoring programs, and community outreach workshops; and

WHEREAS, For its work in the community, Westchester Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. received the Eastern Region Chapter of the Year Award (2007), Sister-to-Sister International Community Service Award (2006), the National Council of Negro Women Mary McLeod Bethune Award (2006), and several accolades and proclamations from the American Heart Association and local elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of its President, Tanee Johnson-Bowman, the Westchester Alumnae Chapter is committed to maintaining a standard of excellence in scholarship, service and sisterhood; its

award-winning chapter remains focused on health and wellness, outreach, social action and education; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when an organization of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our atten-

tion, it should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 51st Anniversary of the Westchester Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Tanee Johnson-Bowman, President, The Westchester Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.