

2009-J5646

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Brooklyn Hospital Foundation upon the occasion of hosting its Silver Anniversary Founders Ball on June 3, 2010

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 who would devote themselves 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 commend the Brooklyn Hospital Foundation upon the occasion of hosting its Silver Anniversary Founders Ball on Thursday, June 3, 2010, at Stage 6 at Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard; and

WHEREAS, At this most auspicious occasion the Brooklyn Hospital Foundation will be presenting its new Brooklyn without Borders Award to Dr. Stephen Carryl for his extraordinary humanitarian efforts beyond the Hospital's immediate community in Guyana and in Haiti, including his medical intervention in the wake of the recent earthquake; and

WHEREAS, The Foundation will also recognize those Trustees who have served on the Hospital board for 25 years or more; they are: J. Barclay Collins II, Seth Faison, George Harris and Dino Veronese; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Brooklyn Hospital Foundation will present the Walter E. Reed Medal to Dr. Lisandro Irizarry and Dr. Ramesh Gulrajani for their many years of exemplary service to their patients and to The Brooklyn Hospital Center; and

WHEREAS, The year was 1839 when a gentleman from Buffalo broke a leg on Fulton Street, near Brooklyn City Hall, and it soon became clear that there was no place to take the stranger, except the infamous almshouse

four miles away; Mayor Cyrus P. Smith, who witnessed the accident, had the man taken to a private house nearby and cared for him at his own expense; and

WHEREAS, Six years later, Mayor Smith convened a public meeting to discuss the establishment of a hospital in Brooklyn; the meeting was held in February 1845, and in May of that year, Brooklyn City Hospital (later renamed the Brooklyn Hospital) was incorporated by the state legislature; Mayor Smith later would become the president of the first board of trustees; and

WHEREAS, On June 11, 1851, the cornerstone was laid by Mrs. Augustus Graham, whose husband, by then deceased, had contributed the significant amount of funds required to build the 160-bed hospital that has become The Brooklyn Hospital Center; some 60 years later, in 1910, a group of immigrant Scotsmen led by Donald G. C. Sinclair, similarly motivated by the spirit of volunteerism and service to their community, resolved to construct a hospital, Caledonian Hospital, to provide basic healthcare in Flatbush and central Brooklyn, where none existed at the time; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, The Brooklyn Hospital and Caledonian Hospital merged to become one hospital, and in 1990, it officially became The Brooklyn Hospital Center; for 160 years, successive generations of Brooklyn leaders have acted to address the ever-changing healthcare needs of the people of their borough; through the decades, they have extended the frontiers of medicine, kept pace with advancing technologies, built and enhanced facilities, merged existing institutions to expand services and developed new programs to serve their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Today, The Brooklyn Hospital Center has undergone significant change over the past few years and is committed to remaining economically viable with a promising future addressing the healthcare needs of

the communities of Brooklyn; it continues to modernize with investments in facility renovation and technology, including the installation of ECLYPSIS electronic medical record system; and

WHEREAS, In addition, many new services are being initiated, new physicians are being recruited and relationships with surrounding nursing homes are being developed to strengthen its growing geriatrics service; cardiology, nephrology and HIV services continue to be major strengths as well as women's health and bariatric surgery; it continues to serve the community with the highest-quality healthcare, making The Brooklyn Hospital Center a leading clinical facility and the borough's first choice for medical care; and

WHEREAS, The Brooklyn Hospital Foundation exists to support the vision and mission of the Hospital Center through a charitable organization committed to the Brooklyn community; the mission of the Foundation is to improve the lives of individuals in the communities served by the Hospital Center and its network; and

WHEREAS, The Foundation is committed to pursuing clinical excellence through research and education and to improving access to healthcare through community service and outreach programs; it is also committed to improving health status through community development and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Brooklyn Hospital Foundation upon the occasion of hosting its Silver Anniversary Founders Ball; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Brooklyn Hospital Foundation, and the aforementioned honorees.