

2009-J5754

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Mid Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. upon the occasion of celebrating its 40th Anniversary on June 12, 2010

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those illustrious organizations within the State of New York whose focus and intent have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Mid Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. upon the occasion of its 40th Anniversary to be celebrated on Saturday, June 12, 2010, at the Dutchess Golf and Country Club, Poughkeepsie, New York; and

WHEREAS, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded in 1913 by 22 students at Howard University; these young women wanted to use their collective strength to promote academic excellence; to provide scholarships; to provide support to the underserved; educate and stimulate participation in the establishment of positive public policy; and to highlight issues and provide solutions for problems in their communities; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, A sisterhood of more than 200,000 predominately Black college educated women, the Sorority 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 the sorority are based upon the organization's Five Point Programmatic Thrust: Economic Development; Educa-

tional Development; International Awareness and Involvement; Physical and Mental Health; and Political Awareness and Involvement; and WHEREAS, The Mid Hudson Valley Alumnae (MHVA) Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was chartered on June 24, 1970; it was through the initial efforts of Alfreda E. Porter that the original Charter Members gathered in 1969 to begin this chapter; and

WHEREAS, The original Charter members were Estella Henderson Boyd, Grace Brown, Yolanda Brown, Jean Wooden Cunningham, Senora Diggs Davis, Carolyn Benyard Golden, Gloria Lang, Alice Jefferson Marshall, Thelma Morris, Doris Penn, Barbara Perry, Alfreda Evans Porter, Dorothy Bradford Stanley and Joanne Luckett Vereen; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its distinguished history, the Mid Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter has been involved in many projects and activities focused on improving the youngest child to the senior citizens of the Mid Hudson Valley area; and

WHEREAS, Held every two years, the Debutante Cotillion program provides monthly workshops and mentoring on personal care, self esteem, education, college preparation/careers, community service and other topics for junior and senior females from high schools throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley through most of the academic year; and

WHEREAS, The workshops culminate with the Cotillion, an elegant debutante ball where these fine young women are presented to the community upon completion of the program; this grand event helps to raise money for the Sorority's annual scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the Chapter offers scholarships to African American female high school seniors in the Mid-Hudson Valley area; the scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement, community and school involvement; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Chapter manages its Delta Academy, a monthly tutoring and mentoring program for girls ages 11 to 14 years old; this program is held at Marist College and it focuses on Math, Science and

Technology, helping to improve the self-esteem of its participants; and WHEREAS, The Chapter is also very involved in political awareness and social action; in October 2009, it held a "Meet the Candidates" program for the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council elections allowing community members to meet and network with the candidates and most recently, it sponsored another Meet the Candidates event for the Poughkeepsie City School Board election; it has also been consistently active in promoting voter registration campaigns and its members are enthusiastically involved in the annual "Delta Days in the Nation's Capital" initiative each year; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Chapter promoted the Census 2010 campaign at several community events providing participants with information and materials to register for the Census on site; it also participated in "Delta Days at the United Nations"; the 2010 theme for the event was "Protecting and Empowering Women & Girls Against Violence"; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a non-governmental organization (NGO) at the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, The Chapter is also dedicated to A.I.D.S. Awareness, and each March it hosts an educational program that focuses on providing the community with information on the prevention, transmission, care and concern for those living with the disease; past activities have included delivering meals to persons homebound with A.I.D.S.; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the Chapter has committed itself to Diabetes Awareness and has held numerous Health Fairs; the focus of this program was on the youth and the rising number of children diagnosed with diabetes; the program included healthy eating/healthy lifestyle tips, exercise information, demonstrations, and speakers; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, the Sorority manages a health initiative program that it presents at local churches, chapter-sponsored events, community programs and other activities this year to educate people on the importance of "knowing your numbers" for good personal health in terms of cholesterol, blood pressure, fasting blood glucose and more; and

WHEREAS, Twice a year, members of the Chapter purchase, cook and serve meals to the community at the Soup Kitchen held at Beulah Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie, New York; additionally, it adopts a family each year providing them with meals, warm clothing and gifts during the holidays; it also hosts an annual Kwanzaa celebration for the community, showcasing the talents of Delta Academy participants and other community members; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Mid Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is in direct correlation to the efforts of its members, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the Sorority and the population it serves; and

WHEREAS, In light of its commitment, dedication, and successful efforts, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to extend its highest commendation to the Mid Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Mid Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. upon the occasion of celebrating its 40th Anniversary on June 12, 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Mid Hudson Valley Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.