

2011-J563

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating Colony South Brooklyn Houses' 107th Anniversary Celebration on February 26, 2011

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize organizations of enduring tradition which faithfully serve the needs of the community and its citizens with diligence and compassionate commitment to improving the quality and dignity of life in the community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate Colony South Brooklyn Houses' 107th Anniversary, to be celebrated with a gala dinner dance to be held at El Caribe on Saturday, February 26, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Rhonda Tomlinson, Administrative Law Judge to the New York State Division of Parole, will be honored on this auspicious occasion; in keeping with Colony South Brooklyn Houses' mission, both personally and professionally, Rhonda Tomlinson has always sought to better the lives of those in need in Brooklyn and throughout New York City and truly merits this high honor; and

WHEREAS, Brooklyn has always proudly been a community of immigrants; a collection of neighborhoods, each with its own unique character and rich diversity; and

WHEREAS, At the turn of the 20th century, as New York City experienced one of its largest waves of immigration, families flocked to Brooklyn to pursue their dreams of a good life in their adopted country; and

WHEREAS, New arrivals to the city often had difficulty getting their bearings, learning a new language, and accessing jobs, housing and education; part of the famous settlement house movement which grew up throughout New York City to help meet their needs, Colony South Brooklyn Houses has a proud history and legacy of service; and

WHEREAS, Colony South Brooklyn Houses was formed by the merger of two venerable settlement houses, South Brooklyn Neighborhood House, originally known as Little Italy House, founded in 1904, and Colony House, founded by the Brooklyn Colony of the Society of New England Women and dedicated to the welfare of the community and neighborhood and to carrying on the work of helping others to help themselves, which opened its doors to seven homeless children in 1913, and by 1929 had grown large enough to offer classes in art, athletics, and citizenship; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, South Brooklyn Neighborhood House and Colony House joined forces to become Colony South Brooklyn Houses, pledging to reach Brooklynites in need of food, shelter and child care; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Brooklyn has grown, its neighborhoods have changed and so too have the needs of the population; through it all Colony South Brooklyn Houses has stayed true to the spirit of that commitment and has remained devoted to the vitality of the community, sponsoring a variety of literacy, arts, education and employment programs and serving families, senior citizens, children, the homeless and at-risk youths; and

WHEREAS, For more than a century Colony South Brooklyn Houses has been a way station for successive waves of immigrants, with tireless dedication and enduring resolve serving the members of the various ethnic and minority communities who have made their homes in Brooklyn; and WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Colony South Brooklyn Houses for its many accomplishments over its long and distinguished history and to recognize it as the steward of a valuable heritage of service in the public interest; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate Colony South Brooklyn Houses' 107th Anniversary Celebration on February 26, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Colony South Brooklyn Houses and to The Honorable Rhonda Tomlinson, distinguished honoree of the evening.