

## 2011-J955

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Lorraine M. Tozzo upon the occasion of her designation by HeartShare Human Services of New York as the recipient of its 2011 HeartShare Genie Foundation Award

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose professional lives, personal endeavors, and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, and family; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Lorraine M. Tozzo upon the occasion of her designation by HeartShare Human Services of New York as the recipient of its 2011 the HeartShare Genie Foundation Award; and

WHEREAS, Lorraine M. Tozzo, President of the Genie Foundation, will be honored at the organization's Spring Gala and Auction, to be held on Thursday, March 24, 2011, at the New York Marriott Marquis; and

WHEREAS, HeartShare Human Services of New York is a nonprofit human services agency dedicated to improving the lives of people in need of special services and support, and to helping individuals develop to their fullest potential and lead meaningful and enriched lives; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1914, HeartShare Human Services of New York promotes self-sufficiency and responsibility through its programs and services to more than 25,000 children, adults, families, and the developmentally disabled throughout New York City annually; each year, at its Spring Gala and Auction, it proudly recognizes the achievements of those who exemplify its ideals and help to further its mission; and

WHEREAS, The younger daughter of the late Helen and Palmo Tozzo, Lorraine Tozzo was born and educated in Brooklyn; she began her career as the Assistant to the President of Arnold Constable Department store,

one of the oldest retailers on New York City's Fifth Avenue; that same year, Lorraine's sister, Elaine Gregoli, gave birth to Lynn Marie, who was diagnosed with Down Syndrome; with the arrival of Lynn Marie, the entire Tozzo-Gregoli family began focusing their attention on helping children with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Elaine became one of the three founders of the New York League for Early Learning (NYL) and its William O'Connor School in Bay Bridge Brooklyn and Lorraine became the League's chief volunteer fundraiser; by 1991, the NYL had grown to include three additional schools, the Teacher's College Pre-Kindergarten Program at Columbia University, the Harry H. Gordon School in the Bronx, and, with a grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Infant Health and Development Program, also in the Bronx; at that point, Elaine convinced Lorraine to accept a full-time position as the League's Development Director and Human Resources Director for all its programs; and

WHEREAS, About eight years later, Lorraine Tozzo became the Executive Assistant to Alan B. Slifka, Co-Chairman of Halcyon Asset Management and the founding Chairman of the Big Apple Circus, Director of the Abraham Joshua Heschel School, founding Chairman of the Abraham Fund Initiatives, and member of the boards of numerous other corporate, charitable and educational organizations to assist him with his philanthropic efforts; she served in that position for 20 years and continues as Executive Assistant to the current Chairman in addition to serving as President of the Genie Foundation and consulting with numerous other not-for-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, While working at the New York League, Lorraine Tozzo met Nino Russo and they became fast friends; Nino was so taken with the children that he quickly signed on as a volunteer; in 1995 Lorraine and Nino

founded the Genie Foundation to support agencies that focus on the needs of children by providing quality services and, together with the other members of the board of the Genie Foundation, the late Denise Vitale,

Tracey Shankman, and Rosanne Macrina, made grants to various organizations; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently, the Genie Foundation merged with HeartShare, ensuring the continuity of the Genie Foundation's mission and providing enhanced benefits for children through HeartShare's wider spectrum of services; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her professional and community service, a period of constructive involvement, Lorraine M. Tozzo has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues, family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Lorraine M. Tozzo has displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Lorraine M. Tozzo upon the occasion of her designation by HeartShare Human Services of New York as the recipient of its 2011 Heartshare Genie Foundation Award on March 24, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lorraine M. Tozzo.