

## 2011-J1029

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Rabbi Aryeh Ralbag upon the occasion of his designation by the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush as the recipient of the Avodas Hakodesh Award at its 32nd Annual Community Legislative Breakfast on March 27, 2011

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those illustrious individuals of the State of New York whose purposeful endeavors serve to enhance 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 Rabbi Aryeh Ralbag upon the occasion of his designation for special honor by the Council of Jewish Organizations (COJO) of Flatbush as the recipient of its 2011 Avodas Hakodesh Award; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Aryeh Ralbag, Moreh Da'Asra of the Young Israel of Avenue K, will be honored at the Council's 32nd Annual Community Legislative Breakfast, to be held at The Kings Terrace in Brooklyn, New York, on Sunday, March 27, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Since 1979, the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush has coordinated the efforts of all parts of the Jewish community, including educational, healthcare, religious, social welfare and other organizations and institutions, and has acted as an advocate for the communal and individual needs of the entire, increasingly diverse, Southern Brooklyn community; and

WHEREAS, Its 32nd Annual Community Legislative Breakfast provides an opportunity to pay tribute to those who have supported the Council and have helped to further its efforts, as well as those who exemplify its mission of improving the quality of life of the citizens it serves; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Ralbag descends from a long line of rabbis, going back

24 generations; from an old Jerusalem rabbinical family, he was born and raised in New York City then went to Israel to study in Jerusalem at the world famous Chevron Yeshiva, the Hebron Rabbinical College, which is the Israeli Branch of the Lithuanian Slobodka Yeshiva, and received his first rabbinical ordinations from the Chevron Yeshiva and the Roshei Yeshiva before he was 20; and

WHEREAS, From 1964 to 1975, Rabbi Ralbag learned in the Hebron Yeshiva and Kollel, returning only briefly to the United States; in February 1969, he received his Master of Arts degree in Psychology from Fordham University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, Rabbi Ralbag proudly received further ordinations and consecrations from the Yeshiva, the Badatz of the Ashkenazim Perushim in Jerusalem, Roshei Yeshiva, Dayanim, and Rabbonim Roshiyim; those who gave him Semicha included Rabbis Moshe Chevrone, S. Zissel Broide, Eliezer Platchinsky, Ovadia Yosef, Avraham Rosenthal, and most importantly to him, his grandfather HaRav Aron Yehuda Arak; and

WHEREAS, Also in 1975, Rabbi Ralbag was called to the Netherlands to become the Dayan, the Judge of the Jewish religious court, the Beth Din, of Amsterdam, Holland, where there were 10,000 Jews in the Ashkenazik synagogue; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, Rabbi Ralbag became the Moreh De'Asra of the Young Israel of Avenue K/Congregation Ahavath Israel in Flatbush, Brooklyn, one of the oldest and most prestigious synagogues in Flatbush, dating back to 1925; and

WHEREAS, Today, under Rabbi Ralbag's leadership and spiritual guidance, the Young Israel of Avenue K has five separate minyanim, or services, on Shabbos, including a Vasikin minyan; three daily morning minyanim including a morning Kollel yungerleit minyan as well as numere-

ous shiurim and lectures throughout the week, including a lesson on modern Halachik problems given by Rabbi Ralbag at the weekly Sunday morning breakfast; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Ralbag heads the Beth Din of the Agudas HaRabbonim, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the USA and Canada, which deals with all Halachik issues; he is also a Chairman of the Beth Din of the Vaad HaRabbonim of Flatbush and a world famous expert on Even HoEzer, Ishus, Gittin, Agunos and numerous other issues; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Ralbag, in addition, works closely with the Botei Din in Israel, and his Psokim on child abuse and Gittin (divorce documents) are immediately recognized in Israel by the Chief Rabbinate; he also works, together with his children, for his father, HaGo'en HaRav Yehosef Ralbag, for the International Triangle K Kashrus Organization; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the Ashkenazik Kehilla of Amsterdam once again called on Rabbi Ralbag to serve as the Chief Rabbi and Av Beth Din of the city of Amsterdam, Holland; as such he is the twenty-second Chief Rabbi since the Kehilla's inception in the middle of the 17th Century; all the Kashrus and Halachik decisions are under his jurisdiction as are eight rabbis and two Beth Din judges; and

WHEREAS, With Rabbi Ralbag throughout have been his devoted wife of more than 40 years, the former Fanny Halberthal of Antwerp, Belgium, and their children, Rabbi Shlomie and Rachelle Stein, Rabbi Zvi and Paghit Ralbag, Rabbi Eliezer and Brynie Ralbag, Rabbi Binyomin and Yuta Weiss, and Gavriel and Ahuva Ralbag and numerous cherished grandchildren, all of whom are proud to be part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend them for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Rabbi Aryeh Ralbag upon the occasion of his designation as the recipient of the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush's Avodas Hakodesh Award at its 32nd Annual Community Legislative Breakfast on March 27, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Aryeh Rabag.