

2011-K363

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the life and accomplishments of eminent scholar of black history and renowned social critic Dr. Manning Marable

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to mourn publicly the death of outstanding citizens of the State of New York who distinguished themselves in their profession and in service to their community; and

WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow this Legislative Body records the passing of Dr. Manning Marable, the M. Moran Weston and Black Alumni Council Professor of African American Studies at Columbia University, on April 1, 2011, in Manhattan, at age 60; and

WHEREAS, Born in Dayton, Ohio on May 13, 1950, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Earlham College in 1971, his Master of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1972, and his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in American history from the University of Maryland in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Before coming to Columbia University in 1993, Dr. Marable was a Senior Research Associate of Africana Studies at Cornell University (1980-1982); Professor of History and Economics, and Director of the Race Relations Institute at Fisk University (1982-1983); Professor of Sociology and the founding director of Colgate University's Africana and Latin American Studies Program (1983-1986); Chair of the Black Studies Department at Ohio State University (1987-1989); and Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder (1989-1993); and

WHEREAS, At Columbia, Dr. Marable was a Professor of Public Affairs, Political Science, History and African-American Studies and the founding Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University for ten years, from 1993 to 2003, during which time, under Dr. Marable's leadership, the Institute became one of the nation's most prestigious centers of scholarship on black American experience; and

WHEREAS, A prolific writer, Dr. Marable, since earning his Ph.D. wrote more than 275 articles in academic journals and wrote and edited nearly 20 books and scholarly anthologies; and

WHEREAS, An impassioned man of well-formed and strong opinions, Dr.

Marable addressed issues of race and economic injustice in numerous works which established him as one of the most forceful and outspoken scholars of African-American history and race relations in the United States including HOW CAPITALISM UNDERDEVELOPED BLACK AMERICA (1983), RACE, REFORM AND REBELLION: THE SECOND RECONSTRUCTION IN BLACK AMERICA, 1945-1982 (1984), BLACK LIBERATION IN CONSERVATIVE AMERICA (1997), THE GREAT WELLS OF DEMOCRACY: THE MEANING OF RACE IN AMERICAN LIFE (2003), as well as two biographies published in 2005, "W.E.B. DUBOIS: BLACK RADICAL DEMOCRAT and THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MEDGAR EVERS, which he edited with Myrlie Evers-Williams, Evers' widow, and in a political commentary series, "Along the Color Line," which, since 1976, was syndicated in more than 400 newspapers and journals worldwide; and WHEREAS, It is most fitting and poignant that leading scholar of black history and critic of American social institutions and race relations Dr. Manning Marable's latest work, his long-awaited biography of Malcolm X, MALCOLM X: A LIFE OF REINVENTION, more than a decade in the writing, is scheduled to be published on April 4, 2011, April 4 being the date on which civil rights icons Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. and Martin Luther King, Jr. passed away; and WHEREAS, Among his many other worthy endeavors, in 2002, Dr. Marable established the Center for Contemporary Black History (CCBH) at Columbia University, an advanced research and publications center that examines black leadership and politics, culture and society; publishes SOULS, a

quarterly academic journal of African-American Studies; conducted a national survey of Black Studies departments to promote the development of new courses on race, crime and justice; and taught courses on hip-hop culture and critical criminology inside Riker's Island Correctional Facility in New York City; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Manning Marable served as Chair of the Movement for a Democratic Society (MDS); he was a Member of the Board of Directors for the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN), a non-profit coalition of public figures working to utilize hip-hop as an agent for social change; and was an esteemed New York State Assembly Delegate to the New York Legislature's Amistad Commission, created to review State curriculum regarding the slave trade; and

WHEREAS, He was regularly featured in national and international media and donated much of his time to fundraising and to speaking on behalf of

prisoners' rights, labor, civil rights, faith-based institutions, and other social justice organizations and causes and frequently lectured in Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, New York, in a master's degree program for inmates; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Leith Mullings, who teaches anthropology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and who co-edited several of his books, Dr. Marable is survived by his children, Joshua Manning Marable of Boulder, Colorado; Malaika Marable Serrano of Silver Spring, Maryland; Sojourner Marable Grimmer of Atlanta, Georgia; Alia Tyner of Manhattan and Michael Tyner of Brooklyn; three grandchildren and his sister, Madonna Marable of Dayton, Ohio, all of whom are proud to have been part of his life and will long treasure his memory; and

WHEREAS, Over his meritorious life, leading scholar of black history Dr. Manning Marable distinguished himself as a man of values and commitment and of sincere dedication and substantial contribution to his profession and his people; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Manning Marable, to celebrate his life, and to applaud his many accomplishments that future generations may know and appreciate his works, his admirable character and the esteem in which he was held; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dr. Manning Marable with the deepest condolences of this Legislative Body.