

2011-J2338

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Metropolitan Black Bar Association upon the occasion of celebrating its 27th Anniversary Gala

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those professional associations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Metropolitan Black Bar Association upon the occasion of celebrating its 27th Anniversary Gala on Thursday, May 19, 2011, at Steiner Studios, Stage 6, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The theme of the Gala was "Answering the Call to Lead"; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this fine event recognized several distinguished honorees, including: Michele Coleman Mayes, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Allstate Insurance Company, Trailblazer of the Year Award; Michelle C. Ifill, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel of Verizon Business, Corporate Counsel of the Year Award; David A. Crichlow, Partner at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw and Pittman LLP, Private Practitioner of the Year Award; Taa Grays, Associate General Counsel and Chief of Staff to the General Counsel of MetLife, Inc., Bar Leader of the Year Award; The Honorable Tandra L. Dawson, Acting Justice, Supreme Court, New York County, Integrated Domestic Violence Court Jurist of the Year Award; The Honorable Gayle P. Roberts, Family Court of the City of New York, Bronx County, Jurist of the Year Award; and Mylan L. Denerstein, Counsel to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Public Servant of the Year; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association (MBBA), a unified citywide association of African-American and other minority

lawyers, is to advance equality and excellence in the pursuit of justice, aid the progress of Blacks and other minorities in the profession, address legal issues affecting the citywide community, and foster the study of law by encouraging the personal and professional development of young lawyers and law students; and

WHEREAS, Founded on July 5, 1984, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association was created from the merger of the Harlem Lawyers Association, founded in 1921 and the Bedford Stuyvesant Lawyers Association, founded in 1933; as one of the largest organizations of Black attorneys in New York State, the MBBA continues the rich legacy of its two predecessor organizations by providing a voice for Black legal professionals in the communities it serves; and

WHEREAS, Today, the MBBA is comprised of mostly minority attorneys in large and small law firms, solo practitioners, all levels of government, academia, corporations, financial institutions, not-for-profit organizations and the judiciary; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association 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 Association and the population it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals and organizations that devote their energy, resources and thoughtful care to improving the quality and character of life in their communities, and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned recognition and applause; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Metropolitan Black Bar Association upon the occasion of celebrating its 27th Anniversary, fully confident, in its future, it

will enjoy the same success which has so characterized its past; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, and to the aforementioned honorees.