

2011-J5437

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to the life and accomplishments of Yolanda Sanchez, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Sanchez of East Harlem, New York, died on Monday, June 11, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Sanchez distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, As a young Puerto Rican caseworker in the 1950s, born in East Harlem, Yolanda Sanchez began her life-long profession of organizing and advocacy more than 50 years ago, when she was asked to join the staff of Aspire in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Sanchez's first assignment was to organize leadership development programs for youth; and

WHEREAS, During her long career, Yolanda Sanchez was a driving force in organizations of great importance throughout the social service community, and in particular, to the Latina population of New York City; she was an inspiration to the many people whom she had mentored, especially young Latinos; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of City College and the Columbia University School of Social Work, as well as a National Urban Fellow at Harvard University for many years, Yolanda Sanchez was the Executive Director of the Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs, an organization she helped to create; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Sanchez's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Sanchez was the founding member and later president of the National Latinas Caucus, a past president of the East Harlem

Council for Human Services and a former director of CUNY's office of Puerto Rican programs; and

WHEREAS, Yolanda Sanchez was also instrumental in the creation of three major institutions for the poor and working class of East Harlem; these are Taino Towers housing, Boriken Health Center, and Casabe Houses for the elderly; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of her life-long contributions to her community, Yolanda Sanchez will be recognized posthumously as the recipient of the inaugural Trailblazer Award during the Silberman School of Social Work Graduation; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Yolanda Sanchez leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Yolanda Sanchez, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Yolanda Sanchez.