

## 2013-J650

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Richard L. Murphy, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his 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, Richard Murphy, former Commissioner of the New York City Department of Youth Services, founder of Rheedlen Foundation (now known as Harlem Children's Zone), and life-long pioneer in the development and delivery of innovative youth development services, died on February 14, 2013, at the age of 68; and

WHEREAS, Richard Murphy founded Rheedlen Foundation in 1970; it was one of the earliest community-based organizations to link providing positive youth development activities with child welfare services and school-based education services; he led Rheedlen for 20 years until 1990 when he was named Commissioner of the Department of Youth Services; and

WHEREAS, During Richard Murphy's four year tenure, New York City invested a significant amount annually in the creation of new youth opportunities including conceiving and implementing the "Cops and Kids" Program, NYC Youthline and the BEACON schools which opened school doors beyond the traditional hours of 8AM to 3PM; and

WHEREAS, The Beacons model was documented by the National Institute for Justice in 1992 as an innovative and effective model of community-based crime prevention; as an educational model, Beacons was replicated in six other cities during the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, Richard Murphy served as Director at the Center for Youth Development & Policy Research from 1995-2002; from 2002 to 2006, he served as Executive Director of FoodChange, an organization devoted to promoting access to nutritious food and adequate income; and

WHEREAS, In 2004 and onward, FoodChange developed the largest Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) operation in the United States, returning a significant amount to lower income New Yorkers; during Richard Murphy's tenure, FoodChange also conceived and implemented Food and Finance High

School, the nation's premier Culinary Arts public high school, integrating culinary and academic instruction; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Richard Murphy founded iMapAmerica, which provides tools that allow youth to chart their communities and sustain local websites which feed a national website to guarantee all young people access to safe and accurate information to make better decisions; and  
WHEREAS, A recipient of the Ellen Laurie Award in 1988, the Georgetown Bicentennial Medal in 1989, and the Lewis H. Hines Award in 2000, Richard Murphy was Co-Founder of the Neighborhood Family Services Coalition (NFSC) and Founding Trustee, Resources for Children with Special Needs; and

WHEREAS, Richard Murphy's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents, Bernard and Althea Wiener Murphy, Richard Murphy is survived by his children, Noel and Asia, his grandchild, Josiah, his siblings, Barry, Catherine, Brian and Katharine, as well as his niece and nephew Jennifer and Michael, along with many grandnephews and nieces; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Richard L. Murphy, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Richard L. Murphy.