

2015-J506

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Homecrest Community Services, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Gala Celebration, The Chinese Lunar New Year 4713

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Homecrest Community Services, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Gala Celebration, The Chinese Lunar New Year 4713, "The Year of the Ram" on Friday, March 6, 2015, at Jing Fong Restaurant, New York, New York; and

WHEREAS, Homecrest Community Services, Inc. (HCS) is a non-profit corporation which provides community-based, multi-social services for senior citizens, immigrants, children and families living in southern Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, HCS was established in 1997, as a grass-roots effort by local residents to help meet the urgent need for social, health, public benefit and other essential services by the rapidly growing, and greatly underserved, Asian-American population who moved to Sheepshead Bay within the past decades; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, HCS opened a satellite Senior Citizens Center in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn which is the first Asian-sponsored senior center of its kind in the area; and

WHEREAS, The HCS membership has grown from 300 members in 1997, to more than 3,000, members in 2007, most of whom are Chinese-Americans who

immigrated to the United States from China, Hong Kong, Vietnam and other southeast Asian countries; and

WHEREAS, The Homecrest Community Services Centers are non-denominational and open to all seniors 60 years or older, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or other characteristic; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, Homecrest Community Services, Inc. improves the lives of Asian-American, immigrant and otherwise disadvantaged persons, and enables them to achieve greater self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, In addition, bilingual (Chinese and English) and bicultural services are provided to help the targeted clientele overcome language, cultural, financial, social, health and other barriers to full participation in society; and

WHEREAS, Homecrest Community Services, Inc. offers numerous programs for seniors, some of which include, congregate hot lunches tailored to meet Asian dietary needs, health and wellness promotion, arts and crafts, tai chi, ping pong, mah-jongg, bus trips, ballroom dancing, cultural events, voter registration, English as a Second Language classes, and U.S. citizenship and immigration/refugee assistance; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 2005, HCS launched a program called Social Adult Day Care (SADC) for Chinese-speaking elderly, with support from the New York City Department for the Aging, to assist frail and physically challenged elderly, who would otherwise be homebound, participate in daily senior center activities; it is the first time ever that a Chinese senior center in Brooklyn received approval to establish this type of program; and

WHEREAS, SADC seniors are provided round-trip transportation from their homes to the HCS Senior Center where they participate in arts and

crafts, physical therapy sessions, music instruction, and other activities in a bilingual and bicultural supportive setting; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor those

organizations of significance which add strength, vigor, and inspiration to the cultural diversity and quality of life in the communities of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Homecrest Community Services, Inc. upon the occasion of hosting its Annual Gala Celebration, The Chinese Lunar New Year 4713; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Homecrest Community Services, Inc.