

2015-J616

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Carmine Santa Maria upon the occasion of celebrating his 35th Anniversary as President of the Bensonhurst West End Community Council

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose professional lives, personal endeavors and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, and family; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Carmine Santa Maria upon the occasion of celebrating his 35th Anniversary as President of the Bensonhurst West End Community Council to be observed at its 54th Anniversary Gala, on Thursday, March 5, 2015, at El Caribe, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, A community leader in Bensonhurst for the past 55 years, Carmine Santa Maria is both President of the Bensonhurst West End Community Council and President/Founder of the Big Screechers; he is also a past President of the Harway Terrace Co-op, as well as a member and past President of Community Education Council District 21; and

WHEREAS, Since 1989, Carmine Santa Maria has been a member of Community School Board 21, and has served as its President for the last five years; he was also the Chairman of the Borough President's Transit Advisory Committee, and as such, served on the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA and the New York City Transit Riders Advisory Board for 15 years, representing Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Carmine Santa Maria has been writing a weekly column "Big Screechers" in the BROOKLYN GRAPHIC since 1988, and is also the publicist for the Brooklyn Columbus Parade Committee; and

WHEREAS, A teacher of ballroom dancing for 55 years, Carmine Santa

Maria spent 11 years at the Federation of Italian American Organizations of Brooklyn, was trained at the Arthur Murray Dance Studios, and taught at all the major dance studios, as well as in the Catskill Mountain resorts, including the Concord Resort and Hotel, Grossinger's Catskill Resort and Brown's Hotel; he has also taught students at PS 128 and PS 212, and offered a course for teachers at Community School District 21; and

WHEREAS, Community leader and civic activist, Carmine Santa Maria raised his family while he attended Kingsborough Community College under the GI Bill, earning an Associate in Arts degree with honors; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man proudly served as a member of Community Education Council 21; his civic, public relations, and extended school board experience was instrumental in the growth and prospering of this fledging community education council; and

WHEREAS, Carmine Santa Maria founded and instituted Project L.E.A.R.N. in District 21, which was a premiere showcase teaching youngsters to "Let's End All Racism Now"; in addition, for the past 22 years, he has enjoyed dressing up in a Santa Claus suit, visiting local schools and Boy Scout Troops; and

WHEREAS, The involvement of Carmine Santa Maria with his community and schools has earned him numerous honors and awards; he proudly was installed in both the Brooklyn Hall of Fame and the Kingsborough Community College Wall of Fame, and was also a Grand Marshal at the Brooklyn Columbus Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his loving wife of 48 years, Sharon, and their two children, Carl (Lori) and Dana (Michael), as well as their six grandchildren, Alexa, Jake, Michael, Cassandra, Vanessa,

and Dean, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his professional and community service, a period of constructive involvement, Carmine Santa Maria

has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues, family and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Carmine Santa Maria upon the occasion of celebrating his 35th Anniversary as President of the Bensonhurst West End Community Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Carmine Santa Maria.