

2015-J849

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the 4th Avenue Subway

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 4th Avenue Subway on June 19, 2015; and

WHEREAS, In 1904, the idea to construct a subway tunnel along 4th Avenue was discussed and land developers rushed to develop housing along the route; nearly 90% of Sunset Park's Federal Historic District housing was completed between 1904 and 1915; and

WHEREAS, Block after block of brick and brownstone row houses rapidly filled the streets of Ward 8, today's Sunset Park; Brooklyn's place in history was already being secured before the announcement of the new subway when John Ambrose began petitioning Congress to deepen the shoreline of Sunset Park to 35 feet; and

WHEREAS, His decade of effort led to the feasibility of Irving T.

Bush's design of piers for shipping, rail for inland freight movement and dozens of warehouses and manufacturing sites; John Ambrose began the development of the waterfront by establishing a ferry at 39th Street and developing the adjacent Ambrose Park, best known for the live Wild West shows of Buffalo Bill, featuring Annie Oakley's marksmanship skills and historic reenactments with hundreds of performers; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the efforts of John Ambrose and Irving T.

Bush, Edward P. Morse developed the Morse Dry Dock in Sunset Park; his vision of respect for workers was marked by the first known comprehensive health plan for employees and internship programs that helped the newest immigrants join the ranks of a workforce that at the time was dominated by previously established ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, After 100 years, today, Sunset Park's history is an inter-modal freight center and a manufacturing center that employed tens of

thousands of local residents; and

WHEREAS, Sunset Park has played a pivotal role in both World Wars, as well as when waves of immigrants became Americans; Sunset's most valuable resource is a vast workforce, which fulfills its role of being the gateway for new Americans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 4th Avenue Subway; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the 4th Avenue Subway 100th Anniversary Committee.