

2015-J987

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Nancy Wackstein upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished service to United Neighborhood Houses of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those revered citizens of this great Empire State who have devoted themselves to faithfully serving the best interests of their community and the needs of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Nancy Wackstein upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished service to United Neighborhood Houses of New York; and

WHEREAS, For the past 13 years, Nancy Wackstein rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service as Executive Director of United Neighborhood Houses of New York; she will officially retire from this esteemed position in December of 2015; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Wackstein has been the Executive Director of United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) of New York, the federation of the City's 38 settlement houses and community centers, since 2002; prior to her appointment, she was the Executive Director of Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, a settlement house on Manhattan's East Side, for 11 years; and

WHEREAS, With an unrelenting and steadfast dedication to this vital organization, Nancy Wackstein has been instrumental in furthering the work of settlement houses in New York City; her profound understanding of public policy issues has greatly strengthened the impact UNH has on the lives of the people it serves; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Nancy Wackstein, UNH has broadened its membership and deepened its influence with government partners and colleagues in the human services community, enabling them

to work together to enrich communities and provide opportunities for New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, After earning a bachelor's degree from Binghamton University where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Nancy Wackstein went on to earn her master's degree from the Columbia University School of Social Work; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 2013, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from her alma mater, Binghamton University; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Wackstein currently serves on the Board of Directors of several non-profit organizations, including the United Way of New York City and United Neighborhood Centers of America; she is Immediate Past Board Chair of the Human Services Council of New York; and

WHEREAS, In addition, she was appointed in 2003, to the New York City Youth Board and the Citywide Coordinating Committee to End Chronic Homelessness; she served the New York City Commission for Economic Opportunity in 2006, as well as the NYC Commission on LGBTQ Runaway and Homeless Youth in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Wackstein is the proud recipient of countless awards and accolades some of which include, the Samuel and May Rudin Community Service Award for exceptional service to the homeless, the recognition award from the Settlement Housing Fund for her efforts to end homelessness, and the annual award from the Council on Homeless Policies and Services; she was also inducted into the Columbia University School of Social Work Hall Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, Sincerely loved and greatly respected by all those with whom she worked, Nancy Wackstein will be remembered for her honesty, integrity, keen sense of duty and ability to show a unique grasp of human problems in her official acts; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, leadership, intellect, and commitment as that demonstrated by Nancy Wackstein over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication

to others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Nancy Wackstein upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished service to United Neighborhood Houses of New York, and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Nancy Wackstein.