

2015-J2289

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the untimely death of Derrick Griffith, Dean at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, 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, Derrick Griffith of Brooklyn, New York, died on May 12, 2015, at the age of 42; and

WHEREAS, Derrick Griffith was well-known throughout the CUNY system, the City of New York and beyond, for his exemplary leadership in education throughout his more than a decade long career; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable educator distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Derrick Griffith served as founding Principal of the CUNY Preparatory Transitional High School, a program which helps teens who drop out of high school find a way to qualify for admission to college; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, Derrick Griffith became the Executive Director of Groundwork, Inc., an organization formed to support young people living in high poverty urban communities; that same year, he joined Medgar Evers College as Assistant Provost in what was to become the first of a number of roles he would fill at the College; and

WHEREAS, The Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn at the time of his death, Derrick Griffith had recently defended his dissertation to achieve his Doctorate of Philosophy in Urban Education; and

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

WHEREAS, An outstanding leader and champion for all of those in need, Derrick Griffith guided and motivated countless young people to pursue higher education; he also worked tirelessly to encourage and support disadvantaged students including women who were victims of domestic violence, and students who were on the borderline of failing; and

WHEREAS, Derrick Griffith is survived by his mother Carlea, and his son Darryus; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Derrick Griffith 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 untimely death of Derrick Griffith, and to offer its sincerest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Derrick Griffith.