

2015-J2291

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 13th Annual Dinner Dance of Local 372, and paying tribute to the 2015 honorees

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge organizations and individuals of worthy purpose whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in the great City and State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 13th Annual Dinner Dance of Local 372, and to pay tribute to the 2015 honorees; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated on Friday, June 19, 2015, at El Caribe in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Local 372's President Shaun D. Francois I and Executive Vice President Donald Nesbit will be recognized for their distinguished efforts and their continued fight to improve the working conditions for all members of Local 372; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1941 by lunch worker Harry Gray, Local 372 is comprised of approximately 23,000 New York City Board of Education employees working together for the benefit of its members and the children of New York City public schools; and

WHEREAS, Since 2002, Local 372 has raised significant funding for scholarships to help children of members who are pursuing college degrees; many of these children are the first in their families to attend college; and

WHEREAS, The 2015 honorees include: Lillian Roberts, Veronica Montgomery-Costa and Henry A. Garrido; and

WHEREAS, Lillian Roberts is the former Executive Director of District Council (DC) 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO representing 125,000 public workers in New York City, 50,000 retirees, 1,000 titles, and 55 locals; she was

also the Vice President of the New York State AFL-CIO, Vice President of the New York City Central Labor Council, and co-Chairperson of the Municipal Labor Committee; and

WHEREAS, During her illustrious tenure, Lillian Roberts established numerous successful programs including the DC 37 Education Fund, Municipal Employees Legal Services, and the Affordable Housing Program; she is the recipient of such prestigious honors as the Distinguished Leadership Award from the United Negro College Fund, and the Triumph Award for advocacy from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women; and

WHEREAS, Veronica Montgomery-Costa has served as President of Local 372 and DC 37, as well as the International Vice President of AFSCME representing DC 37; her efforts were vital in implementing numerous economic and administrative reforms in her official acts from 1999 until 2011; and

WHEREAS, A veteran of Local 372 for 34 years, Veronica Montgomery-Costa has been both a member and Chairperson on numerous important boards including SAPI Chapter on the Local 372 Executive Board, the New York State Food Service Association, Nutrition Consortium of New York State, Community Food Resource Center; and

WHEREAS, Henry A. Garrido is the current Executive Director of DC 37; a native of the Dominican Republic, he assumed the position on December 31, 2014; prior, he served as Associate Director, and was responsible for leading field staff and numerous important projects including a vital white paper which exposed immense wasteful contractor spending; and

WHEREAS, An able administrator, Henry A. Garrido helped settle a new 88-month economic agreement which preserves union rights and benefits; he continues to strive to increase membership, strengthen ties to the

community, improve services, and encourage members to be more involved in union activities; and

WHEREAS, The success of the City and State of New York, and of our

nation, depends on organizations such as Local 372 and its members who have dedicated their lives to nurturing our most precious resource, our children; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 13th Annual Dinner Dance of Local 372, and to pay tribute to the 2015 honorees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Local 372 President Shaun D. Francois I, Executive Vice President Donald Nesbit, and the aforementioned honorees.