

## 2015-J2318

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 15th Anniversary of the Red Hook Community Justice Center on October 26, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the Red Hook Community Justice Center to be celebrated on October 26, 2015, at the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Established in June of 2000, the Red Hook Community Justice Center is the nation's first multi-jurisdictional community court; operating out of a refurbished Catholic school in the heart of a geographically and socially isolated neighborhood in southwest Brooklyn, it seeks to solve neighborhood problems and restore trust in government; and

WHEREAS, This pioneering court of law was founded as a public/private partnership between the New York State Unified Court System and the Fund for the City of New York in order to create programs which test new ideas to improve the application of justice; and

WHEREAS, At the Red Hook Community Justice Center, a single judge hears neighborhood cases from three police precincts, serving approximately 200,000 people, who under ordinary circumstances would be referred to three different courts: Civil, Family, and Criminal; and

WHEREAS, The courthouse is the hub for an array of unconventional programs which contribute to reducing fear and improving public trust in

government; these include mediation, community service, and a youth court where teenagers are trained to resolve actual cases involving their peers; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to improving life in the community, the Red Hook Community Justice Center provides an on-site clinic staffed by social service professionals who utilize trauma and evidence informed approaches to assess and connect individuals to appropriate services; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable institution also offers a housing resource center, which provides support and information to residents with cases in housing court; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the Red Hook Community Justice Center provides numerous community-based violence prevention projects and alternatives to incarceration, as well as reentry initiatives and court-based programs which seek to promote positive individual and family change; and

WHEREAS, The Red Hook Community Justice Center has received numerous awards for its pioneering efforts, including the Peter F. Drucker Award for Non-Profit Innovation, the Innovations in American Government Award from Harvard University and the Ford Foundation, and the Prize for Public Sector Innovation from the Citizens Budget Commission; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence 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 15th Anniversary of the Red Hook Community Justice Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Red Hook Community Justice Center.