

## 2015-J2753

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Rabbi Yaakov Klass upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Rabbinic Leadership Award by the Foxman Torah Institute on June 17, 2015

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Rabbi Yaakov Klass upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Rabbinic Leadership Award by the Foxman Torah Institute, to be feted at its 15th Anniversary Dinner Celebrating the Renaissance of Torah Study, on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, at the Collingswood Grand Ballroom, Collingswood, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Foxman Torah Institute was founded in 2000, with the mission of bringing genuine Torah to as many local students as possible, eventually impacting the entire community through the power of having a great makom Torah in its midst; and

WHEREAS, As a young boy, Yaakov Klass grew up in Boro Park, New York, and was involved in Pirchei Agudas Yisrael and later, Zeirei Agudas Yisrael; and

WHEREAS, Yaakov Klass attended Yeshiva Etz Chaim in Boro Park for Elementary School, followed by Mirrer Yeshiva High School; he went on to study in the Beis Hamedrash of the Mirrer Yeshiva, where he was a talmid of the greatest Rebbeim, the Roshei Yeshiva of the Mirrer Yeshiva in

Brooklyn, and a musmach of the Mirrer Yeshiva; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Yaakov Klass continued in the Kollel for a short time after his marriage to the former Judith Spanier, and then went on to teach at the Yeshiva of Brighton, and Hebrew Schools on Long Island; in addition, he is a member of the faculty of Kollel Ayshel Avraham, Monsey; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man of God was one of the founders of the Agudah of Boro Park/West-9th Avenue, Boro Park, Brooklyn; currently, he serves as the Rav of Kahal Bnei Matisyahu, a young vibrant congregation in the Flatbush, Brooklyn "Thirties", where he labors at disseminating the word of Hashem; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Rabbi Yaakov Klass is a Presidium member of the Rabbinical Alliance of America - Igud Horabbanim, a Rabbinic organization comprised of over 800 Rabbis across America, Canada, and Eretz Yisrael; and

WHEREAS, For many years, Rabbi Yakkov Klass held the position of Advertising Director of THE JEWISH PRESS, America's leading independent English language Jewish publication; the newspaper was founded by his late uncle, Rabbi Shalom Klass zt', who served as its Publisher and Editor; and

WHEREAS, Following the death of his uncle, Rabbi Yakkov Klass succeeded him as Torah and Halacha Editor, and as author of the widely read Halachic Responsa column, "Questions & Answers"; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Judith, their five married children, Moshe Klass and his wife, the former Chaya Steinhardt; Mrs. Tzirel Leah Burnes and her husband, Chaim Burnes; Mrs. Malkie Heisler and her husband, Avi Heisler; Mrs. Chavie Warman and her husband, Elly Warman; and Mrs. Ettie Gantz and her husband, Avi Gantz; as well as

their grandson, Yosef Simcha Burnes, a talmid of Foxman Torah Institute, and their other grandsons who currently attend various Chofetz Chaim affiliate Yeshivos throughout the country, all of whom feel privileged

to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Yaakov Klass has brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Rabbi Yaakov Klass upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Rabbinic Leadership Award by the Foxman Torah Institute, noting his unremitting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Yaakov Klass, and Foxman Torah Institute.