

2015-K660

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION expressing profound sorrow for the Sassoon family's loss, and applauding the neighbors and civil servants who assisted the Sassoon family in a moment of great need

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the tragedy of the devastating fire that took place on March 21, 2015, and the loss of life and damage that have been sustained by the victims and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, In the early hours of Saturday, March 21, 2015, a fire which began in a Midwood family's kitchen overran their home, and the family, the community, and New York City suffered an unspeakable loss; and

WHEREAS, The Sassoon family, caught unaware of the fire as it spread, lost seven of their children in the blaze, including Eliane, 16; Rivka, 11; Sara, 6; David, 12; Yeshua, 10; Moshe, 8; and Yaakob, 5; survived only by Gabriel Sassoon and Gayle Sassoon, the children's parents, and Siporah Sassoon, 15; and

WHEREAS, Gayle and Siporah Sassoon leapt from the second floor of their home to escape the flames, and attempted to rouse family and neighbors to help rescue their family from the flames; and

WHEREAS, Family, neighbors, and the New York City Fire Department all attempted valiantly to intervene and prevent the flames from claiming any of the Sassoon children's lives; and

WHEREAS, Gabriel Sassoon, husband to Gayle Sassoon and father to the eight children, buried his seven children in Israel on the Monday following the fire; and

WHEREAS, The Sassoon family, whose roots lay in Midwood, Brooklyn and had recently returned to live there a few years prior to reconnect with family and community alike, has been irrevocably altered by the tragic events of March 21st; and

WHEREAS, The Sassoon family's loss is our loss, and we grieve with

them as Mr. and Mrs. Sassoon and Siporah continue to survive the fire that claimed their home and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Gayle Sassoon, Siporah, their family, neighbors, and the Fire Department all deserve our gratitude for selflessly attempting to rescue the Sassoon children from the home, demonstrating that in the face of overwhelmingly negative odds and an unexpected crisis, our neighbors' spirit and willingness to place the needs and welfare of others above their own is alive and deeply ingrained in our sense of community; and

WHEREAS, On behalf of the people of the State of New York, the members of this Legislative Body offer their deepest condolences to the Sassoon family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to express profound sorrow for the Sassoon family's loss, and to applaud the neighbors and civil servants who assisted the Sassoon family in a moment of great need; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gabriel, Gayle, and Siporah Sassoon.