

2015-J2839

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Stamp Act

WHEREAS, It is the duty of this Legislative Body to bring such civic awareness as is due to significant and influential events memorialized in our national heritage; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the 1765 Stamp Act in recognition of the Act's impact on our Nation's founding; and

WHEREAS, The Stamp Act was legislated by the British Parliament on March 22, 1765 as the Duties in the American Colonies Act of 1765 and required colonists to use British printed paper affixed with a stamp for many official documents, including newspapers; and

WHEREAS, The Stamp Act was immediately met with vigorous and sustained opposition by those colonists who pioneered the foundational principle of no taxation without representation; and

WHEREAS, The Act catalyzed the opposition by the 'Sons of Liberty,' which counted among its members such celebrated individuals as Samuel Adams, John Adams, John Hancock, Patrick Henry and Paul Revere and is best known for planning the Boston Tea Party; and

WHEREAS, In response to the Act, the Stamp Act Congress was held between October 5 and 27, 1765, in the Federal Hall of New York at 26 Wall Street, which later became our nation's first Capitol and the site of President George Washington's oath of office; and

WHEREAS, The Stamp Act Congress marked the first meeting of democratically elected representatives from among the Thirteen Colonies; and

WHEREAS, The Stamp Act Congress issued the Declaration of Rights and Grievances, officially enshrining the principle of no taxation without representation in the political discourse; and

WHEREAS, The British Parliament ultimately repealed the Stamp Act, but passed myriad other Intolerable Acts contributing to the colonists' desire for independence; and

WHEREAS, The Stamp Act is a pivotal piece of American history that, together with other important historical events, ultimately led to our representative democracy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Stamp Act, and the critical role the Stamp Act played in our Nation's independence; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Federal Hall National Memorial at 26 Wall Street in Manhattan.