

2015-J3007

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Phillip Agnew and the Dream Defenders upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts

WHEREAS, Individuals and organizations devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Phillip Agnew and the Dream Defenders upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, celebrated on Thursday, May 14, 2015, in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MoCADA) uses the visual arts as a point of departure for exploring new artistic productions across a variety of disciplines; through exhibitions and programming, MoCADA incites dialogue on pressing social and political issues facing the African Diaspora, and fosters a dynamic space for the creation and continuous evolution of African Diaspora culture; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Agnew is head of the social justice advocacy organization Dream Defenders; he is part of a new generation of civil rights leaders drawing from the rich legacy of black freedom struggles while moving into the 21st century with a deft use of social media and sometimes scathing irony; and

WHEREAS, The Florida-based Dream Defenders has mobilized communities nationwide to combat racial violence, profiling, and other injustices; it has played a key role in amplifying the Black Lives Matter campaign; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Agnew and the Dream Defenders have been called upon

to contribute their time and talents to countless worthy endeavors and have always given of themselves unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of their community service, a period of constructive involvement, Phillip Agnew and the Dream Defenders have stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which Phillip Agnew and the Dream Defenders have displayed throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Phillip Agnew and the Dream Defenders upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Phillip Agnew and the Dream Defenders.