

2015-J3746

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Matt de la Pena upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the John Newbery Medal

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Matt de la Pena upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the John Newbery Medal; and

WHEREAS, The Newbery Medal is awarded annually by the American Library Association for the most distinguished American children's book published within the previous year; on June 22, 1921, Frederic G. Melcher proposed the award to the American Library Association meeting of the Children's Librarians' Section and suggested that it be named for the eighteenth-century English bookseller John Newbery; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Newbery Medal was stated as follows: "To encourage original creative work in the field of books for children. To emphasize to the public that contributions to the literature for children deserve similar recognition to poetry, plays, or novels. To give those librarians, who make it their life work to serve children's reading interests, an opportunity to encourage good writing in this field."; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Park Slope, Brooklyn, Matt de la Pena became the first Hispanic author to win this auspicious award for his insightful and thought-providing book LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET, which was illustrated by Christian Robinson; and

WHEREAS, LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET is a heartfelt story about a young boy who rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things; and

WHEREAS, Matt de la Pena earned his bachelor's degree from the University of the Pacific; he then obtained his Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing from the University of the Pacific, where he attended school on a full athletic scholarship for basketball; and

WHEREAS, A NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author, Matt de la Pena has written six young adult novels and two picture books; he also teaches creative writing and visits high schools and colleges throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, 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 honor Matt de la Pena upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the John Newbery Medal; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Matt de la Pena.