

2015-J3820

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Kam Mak upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Homecrest Community Services on February 26, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those American artists who have achieved worldwide recognition, for in doing so, we also give thanks for our freedom which allows us to create and express ourselves artistically; and

WHEREAS, The arts, in whatever form depicted, are central to human expression; they are truly a universal language and their contribution to the development of friendship and understanding among all peoples cannot be underestimated; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Kam Mak upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Homecrest Community Services to be celebrated at its Annual Gala Celebration, The Chinese Lunar New Year 4714 "The Year of the Monkey" on Friday, February 26, 2016, at Jing Fong Restaurant, New York, New York; and

WHEREAS, Homecrest Community Services, Inc. (HCS) is a non-profit corporation which provides community-based, multi-social services for senior citizens, immigrants, children and families living in southern Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Born in Hong Kong, Kam Mak grew up in New York City's Chinatown after his family relocated to the United States in 1971; and

WHEREAS, Kam Mak was inspired to paint after becoming involved with City Art Workshop, an organization designed to encourage the art interests of inner city youth; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, Kam Mak earned his Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts

from the School of Visual Arts, Manhattan, New York, where he studied on a full scholarship; and

WHEREAS, Renowned Artist, Kam Mak was proudly commissioned by the United States Postal Service to design the 12-year stamp series Celebrating Lunar New Year which began in 2008 and will continue through 2019; and

WHEREAS, Kam Mak's richly colored paintings have illustrated the covers of numerous magazines and books including his first offering as both author and illustrator, MY CHINATOWN: ONE YEAR IN POEMS, about a little boy growing up in Chinatown; and

WHEREAS, Kam Mak was also recognized for his brilliant artwork in several other books including THE DRAGON PRINCE, by Laurence Yep; THE KITE RIDER, by Geraldine McCaughrean; THE YEAR OF THE PANDA, by Miriam Schlein; and THE MOON OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES, by Jean Craighead George; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Brooklyn, Kam Mak has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for his intricately stunning illustrations including the Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Platinum Book Award for best children's picture book, the National Parenting Publications Gold Medal, and the Stevan Dohanos Award, as well as both Gold and Silver Medals from the Society of Illustrators; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Kam Mak is working on a series of paintings inspired by images of animals as food in Chinatown; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his renowned art career, Kam Mak holds the position of Associate Professor of Illustration at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those individuals whose commitment and creative talents have

contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of the citizens of the State of New York; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

commend Kam Mak upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Homecrest Community Services on February 26, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kam Mak.