

2015-K1042

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Phillip A. Saperia upon the occasion of his retirement after over 21 years of distinguished service to The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies on March 15, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished citizens of this great Empire State who have devoted themselves to faithfully serving the best interests of their community and the needs of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Phillip A. Saperia upon the occasion of his retirement after over 21 years of distinguished service to The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies to be celebrated at a Retirement Reception held in his honor on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, in the Grand Hall at the NYU Kimmel Center, New York City; and

WHEREAS, Phillip A. Saperia graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Politics from Brandeis University; he furthered his education by obtaining his Master's degree in Teaching from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education where he was elected to Phi Delta Kappa, the National Honorary Education Society; and

WHEREAS, For over three decades, Phillip A. Saperia has worked in the fields of community and government relations, many of those served in the Jewish organizational world; and

WHEREAS, Phillip A. Saperia began his illustrious career as both a public and private school teacher; he also held the role of administrator, and government and community relations specialist for several agencies, including the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, where he directed its Metropolitan New York Region and HIAS, and the international refugee and migration agency, where he held the

title of Associate Executive Vice President; and

WHEREAS, Phillip A. Saperia then went on to serve as a consultant to several not-for-profit agencies on matters related to community siting of special care housing and on the development of local community advisory boards; in addition, he held the position of Director of the Mayor's Office of Jewish Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, On October 3, 1994, Phillip A. Saperia began serving as the Executive Director of The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, a position from which he will officially retire on March 15, 2016; in this capacity, he has overseen The Coalition's program of education, advocacy and technical assistance to the diverse community-based behavioral health providers of New York City; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Phillip A. Saperia has served on The Medicaid Redesign's Workgroup on Behavioral Health as well as the Subcommittee on Children and Families; he has been enthusiastically involved in the impending transformation of the health and behavioral health sector that he has served, including policy, advocacy and organizational reengineering; and

WHEREAS, Since taking a position at The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, Phillip A. Saperia has worked hard to support mental health and addictions public policy and community based programs, government support of community behavioral health, the evolution of managed care programs for people living with mental illness and substance use disorders, the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice and the emerging area of rehabilitation and recovery for people with behavioral health disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to his community, Phillip A. Saperia has been active in numerous organizations within the brownstone neighborhoods of

Brooklyn; he was a long time member of the local Community Board and served as President of The Carlton-Willoughby Block Association; and

WHEREAS, Phillip A. Saperia is an active member and past President of

Congregation Kolot Chayeinu, a progressive and inclusive Jewish congregation in Brooklyn; he was also a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the former Brooklyn AIDS Task Force (Bridging Access to Care) in Brooklyn, and a participant of the Board of Directors of SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders); and

WHEREAS, Currently, Phillip A. Saperia serves on the Board of Directors of the Human Services Council of New York City and the Community Mental Health Advisory Committee of Visiting Nurse Service of New York; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Phillip A. Saperia served The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies with intelligence and caring dedication, continuously striving to effectively fulfill the duties of his position; and

WHEREAS, Sincerely loved and greatly respected by all those with whom he worked, Phillip A. Saperia will be remembered for his honesty, integrity, keen sense of duty and ability to show a unique grasp of human problems in his official acts; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his life partner of 42 years, James R. Golden, who feels privileged to be a part of his life and rejoices in his accomplishments; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Phillip A. Saperia upon the occasion of his retirement after over 21 years of distinguished service to The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Phillip A. Saperia.