

2015-J4797

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Cassandra and Thomas Brennan upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2016 Couple of the Year Award by the Bensonhurst West End Community Council on May 4, 2016

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose professional lives, personal endeavors and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, and family; and

WHEREAS, It is also the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in this great State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Cassandra and Thomas Brennan upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2016 Couple of the Year Award by the Bensonhurst West End Community Council to be celebrated at its 55th Annual Gala, at El Caribe, Brooklyn, New York, on Wednesday, May 4, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Cassandra and Thomas Brennan were inspired by their nurturing teachers to become devoted educators; and

WHEREAS, Raised in Springfield, Virginia, Cassandra Jones was born to Royal and Lillian Jones; as a military child, Cassandra spent a lifetime traveling the world, teaching and learning across continents; and

WHEREAS, Cassandra Brennan began her career in Corporate Communications for the Government Contracting industry with entities such as Litton PRC, now Boeing Inc.; this experience prepared her for the struc-

ture, support and professionalism she brings to her role as Assistant Principal at Morris H. Weiss, PS 215; and

WHEREAS, Cassandra Brennan's love and devotion to music and the arts fuels the passion she brings to her students; from her first position as an ESL Teacher through her roles as ESL Coordinator, she has focused on bringing technology and the arts together to support her students' understanding of their core curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Today, Cassandra Brennan holds the esteemed position of Assistant Principal at PS 215; in this role she strives to provide the best for her students wherever possible; she was pleasantly surprised to have a brief cameo in the documentary about some of her favorite students in the 2013 film, "I Learn America"; and

WHEREAS, Having worked as a professional musician and freelance writer, Cassandra Brennan has imparted to her students the importance of education in creating a vision for one's life and committing to the hard work needed to make those dreams a reality; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong Brooklyn resident, Thomas Brennan is the son of Robert and Antoinette Brennan; he has spent 23 years giving back, one student at a time, to the next generation of Brooklyn natives; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, Thomas Brennan started the Symphony Orchestra at his school alongside his colleague of 18 years, James Chiarello; their musical teamwork continues to be a source of pride for David A. Boody IS 228; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Brennan was also the Brooklyn Boro-wide Orchestra Conductor for seven years, performing at Carnegie Hall in 2006, 2008, and 2010; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable teacher was the recipient of the 2007 Dr. George S. Hoffman Award by the Catholic Teachers Association for Teacher

of the Year, and for his diligence to his students at David A. Boody IS 228, he was honored to receive the 2014 Teacher of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Brennan's exceptional groups have performed for numer-

ous dignitaries, and have been featured on 1010 WINS, NY1, and Channel 5 News; and

WHEREAS, Cassandra and Thomas Brennan and their dedicated staff continue to build a collaborative professional learning community, committed to providing a rigorous and supportive learning environment for all of the students that the school serves; and

WHEREAS, Cassandra and Thomas Brennan have brought great credit upon themselves by continually demonstrating an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unrelenting enthusiasm for the quality of the educational programs and opportunities offered at the schools where they have served; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of their professional service, a period of constructive involvement, Cassandra and Thomas Brennan have stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and have earned the respect and admiration of their colleagues, family and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Cassandra and Thomas Brennan upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2016 Couple of the Year Award by the Bensonhurst West End Community Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Cassandra and Thomas Brennan.