

## 2015-J5289

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Brooklyn Historical Society upon the occasion of hosting its 12th Annual Library Dinner and paying tribute to this year's honorees on May 12, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those worthy organizations whose purpose is dedicated to educational purpose and help preserve the history and heritage of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Brooklyn Historical Society upon the occasion of hosting its 12th Annual Library Dinner and paying tribute to this year's honorees on Thursday, May 12, 2016; and

WHEREAS, This year's honorees, Tucker Reed, Victoria Westhead and John Levy, are being recognized for their steadfast and unrelenting commitment to their community; in addition, Brian Purnell will serve as the Distinguished Speaker for the evening; and

WHEREAS, Tucker Reed is the President of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership (DBP); under his luminous leadership, the DBP has become the driving force behind the emergence of the Brooklyn Tech Triangle as a world-class center for innovation; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work with the DBP, Tucker Reed was the founding Executive Director of the DUMBO Improvement District and the Director of Special Projects for Two Trees Management Company; and

WHEREAS, Since 2004, Victoria Westhead has served on the Brooklyn Historic Society's Board of Trustees; in that same year, she was instrumental in creating the first Library Dinner; she also held the title of Board Secretary and as co-Chair of the 150th Anniversary Campaign, now in its final year; in June of 2016, she will step down from the Board to

pursue new challenges; and

WHEREAS, Along with her volunteer work, Victoria Westhead is a development consultant and serves as the Vice Chair of the Pembroke Center Associates Council at Brown University; and

WHEREAS, Since 2010, John Levy has been the Chairman of both BioLite and Hypres companies; he also is a vital member of the investment committee of the Nathan Cummings Foundation, working in the field of climate change and inequality; and

WHEREAS, Brian Purnell grew up in Coney Island, New York, and earned his bachelor's degree from Fordham University and a Ph.D. in United States History from New York University; he currently teaches History and Africana Studies at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine; and

WHEREAS, A prolific author, Brian Purnell's book, *FIGHTING JIM CROW IN THE COUNTY OF KINGS: THE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY IN BROOKLYN*, examines the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), one of the most important civil rights organizations of the early 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1863, the Brooklyn Historical Society is a nationally recognized urban history center comprised of a museum, scholarly research library and educational center dedicated to preserving and encouraging the study of the extraordinary 400-year history of Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Brooklyn Historical Society is housed in a magnificent landmark building in Brooklyn Heights, designed by George Post in 1878, where it maintains an important collection of archival documents, photographs, maps, books, artifacts and paintings relating to national and local history; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the Brooklyn Historical Society serves almost 80,000 people by providing opportunities for civic dialogue and communi-

ty engagement for children and adults through exhibit tours, public programming, research opportunities, educational programs for New York City students, and professional development workshops and written

curricula for New York City teachers; and

WHEREAS, Under the supervision of President Deborah Schwartz, the success enjoyed by the Brooklyn Historical Society is in direct correlation to the efforts of the many individuals who have supported its development over the years; and

WHEREAS, Equally commendable are the superbly-skilled staff at the Brooklyn Historical Society, whose involvement is and has always been characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all of their efforts on behalf of the organization and the population it serves; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Brooklyn Historical Society may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations 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 the Brooklyn Historical Society upon the occasion of hosting its 12th Annual Library Dinner and paying tribute to this year's honorees on May 12, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Deborah Schwartz, President, the Brooklyn Historical Society.