

2015-J5571

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Jane Jacobs, journalist, author and urban design advocate, on May 4, 2016

WHEREAS, From time to time we take note of certain individuals whom we wish to recognize for their valued contributions and to publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Jane Jacobs, journalist, author and urban design advocate, on May 4, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on May 4, 1916, Jane Jacobs moved to New York in the midst of the Great Depression and was immediately drawn to the New York City neighborhood of Greenwich Village due to its divergence from Manhattan's traditional street grid; and

WHEREAS, Jane Jacobs became a devoted advocate for the preservation of Greenwich Village's unique character while working as a journalist for Architectural Forum; and

WHEREAS, Jane Jacobs boldly stood up to the planning establishment of the 1950s and 1960s, penning her first major essay "Downtown Is For People" for FORTUNE magazine in 1958 to oppose plans for urban renewal that failed to account for the human dimension of neighborhood life in lower Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, Jane Jacobs then published her seminal work THE DEATH AND LIFE OF GREAT AMERICAN CITIES in 1961, forever altering accepted dogma in the field of urban planning and practice by offering people-centered alternatives to urban renewal; and

WHEREAS, Jane Jacobs set an example for civic activism and leadership by chairing the Joint Committee to Stop the Lower Manhattan Expressway and organizing neighbors to successfully oppose a transportation

proposal by Robert Moses that would have torn through Washington Square Park and decimated 14 blocks of Greenwich Village; and

WHEREAS, Jane Jacobs not only left an imprint on the streets and skyline of New York City, but also originated ideas that have had an impact in cities across the world; this remarkable woman died on April 25, 2006, at the age of 90; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to congratulate all those concerned citizens who, like Jane Jacobs, work to sustain and make vibrant New York's communities for future generations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Jane Jacobs, journalist, author and urban design advocate, on May 4, 2016, recognizing and paying tribute to her legacy.