

2015-J5967

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Refoundry upon the occasion of hosting its One Year Anniversary Celebration on June 21, 2016

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals and organizations it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Refoundry upon the occasion of hosting its One Year Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday, June 21, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Refoundry is an innovative not-for-profit organization based on self-reliance, collaboration and entrepreneurship; the program is specifically designed to improve the efficiencies and outcomes for successful re-entry and reintegration of formerly incarcerated people, have positive environmental impact, and save significant government revenues; and

WHEREAS, Located in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, this vital organization trains formerly incarcerated people to repurpose and refurbish discarded materials into unique home furnishings and accessories; and

WHEREAS, Refoundry's intensive career development curriculum coupled with social service support culminates in its participants being incubated in their own businesses; this innovative and proven incubation model was developed by the organization's co-founder, Cisco Pinedo, in his Los Angeles-based furniture business; and

WHEREAS, While violent crime has gone down 30% over the last four

decades, the prison population has risen over 700%; today, more than 2.4 million people are in state and federal prisons, of which 700,000 are released each year and often face insurmountable barriers to employment and healthful reintegration into society; and

WHEREAS, The United States has made great strides in recycling over the last decade, but the nation's landfills remain choked by commercial and residential furniture, and by construction waste, all of which take a long time to break down; many of these discarded resources still have valuable use; and

WHEREAS, Refoundry recognizes the value in people and materials too often discarded by society, and has designed a unique program that recognizes and promotes the worth of these precious resources; the organization's products reflect their component parts and the people who are reworking them, each infusing the other with new use and value; and

WHEREAS, The success of Refoundry is in direct correlation to the efforts of its co-founders, Tommy Safian and Cisco Pinedo whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; 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 this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Refoundry upon the occasion of hosting its One Year Anniversary Celebration on June 21, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Tommy Safian and Cisco Pinedo, Co-founders, Refoundry, Brooklyn, New York.