

## 2015-J5977

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 103rd Anniversary of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals that are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 103rd Anniversary of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., to be celebrated at its 53rd National Convention in July of 2017, in Las Vegas, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was established on January 13, 1913, by twenty-two collegiate women at Howard University who wanted to use their collective strength to promote academic excellence and to provide assistance to persons in need, with a primary focus on the Black community; and

WHEREAS, The first public act performed by the Delta Founders involved their participation in the Women's Suffrage March in Washington, D.C., in March of 1913; and

WHEREAS, Today, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., is the single largest predominately African-American, college educated women's organization in the world; its purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities across the globe; and

WHEREAS, A sisterhood of more than 200,000 predominately Black college educated women, the sorority currently has over 900 chapters located in the United States, England, Japan (Tokyo and Okinawa), Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Republic of Korea; and

WHEREAS, The major initiatives of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority are based upon the organization's Five Point Programmatic Thrust: Economic Development; Educational Development; International Awareness and Involvement; Physical and Mental Health; and Political Awareness and Involvement; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this esteemed sorority offers numerous public service programs, including Financial Fortitude, the Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy; Delta GEMS, Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing Independence and Delta Day at the National and State Capitols; and

WHEREAS, The members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., represent a unique segment of the nation's demographic profile; Delta women hold political offices, own businesses and are influential in a range of fields from medicine to law to education; they are well-educated, earn competitive incomes and maintain positions of influence and respect within the greater community; and

WHEREAS, New York State has been home to many notable Deltas including the late United States Representative Shirley Chisholm, New York State Assembly Deputy Speaker Earlene Hooper, New York State Assemblywoman Annette Robinson, New York State Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte and New York State Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous guidance of Dr. Paulette C. Walker, the 25th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., this illustrious organization will continue to serve its community and foster constructive development for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, 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 commemorate the 103rd Anniversary of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.;

and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Paulette C. Walker, President, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.