

2015-J6346

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Gamma Iota Lambda Alumni Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity upon the occasion of hosting its Juneteenth Summer Formal, and paying tribute to this year's honorees on June 18, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to organizations of true purpose and worthy accomplishment which are dedicated to serving their community and to celebrating and preserving their rich ethnic heritage; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Gamma Iota Lambda Alumni Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity upon the occasion of hosting its Juneteenth Summer Formal, to be celebrated on Saturday, June 18, 2016, at Terrace on the Park, Flushing, New York, and paying tribute to this year's honorees; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious event offers an opportunity for the Gamma Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to present the distinguished PHI Award to individuals who have made great accomplishments and have helped to better their community; and

WHEREAS, This year's recipients are Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, Pastor of the Historical Abyssinian Baptist Church, Harlem, New York; and Fabrice Armand, entrepreneur, philanthropist and advocate for Haiti; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek letter fraternity established by African-Americans, was founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, by seven visionary men, now collectively known as the "Seven Jewels," who together with other early leaders of Alpha Phi Alpha succeeded in laying a firm foundation for the fraternity's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good charac-

ter and the uplifting of humanity; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding more than 100 years ago, Alpha Phi Alpha has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African-Americans and people of color around the world; it has initiated over 185,000 men into the organization and has been open to men of all races since 1940; today, there are over 680 active Alpha chapters in the Americas, Africa, Europe, Asia, the West Indies and the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha's numerous distinguished members include W.E.B. DuBois, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Andrew Young, Paul Robeson, Jesse Owens, Hubert Humphrey, Maynard Jackson and numerous other American leaders who have adopted the fraternity's principles of manly deeds, scholarship and love for all mankind; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha evolved into a primarily community service organization and has provided leadership and service during the Great Depression, both World Wars and the Civil Rights Movement and continues to address social, political and cultural issues affecting people of color; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of President, Stephen Mortley-Edwards, the Brooklyn-Long Island Alphas of the Gamma Iota Lambda Alumni Chapter, in keeping with this fine tradition, continue to work to develop leaders and to promote brotherhood and academic excellence while providing service and advocacy for their community and, this year, worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Brooklyn on voter registration and Census 2010 awareness drives, mentoring students to encourage academic excellence and, in conjunction with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Jack and Jill of America, conducted a Teen Health Summit at Boys and Girls High School; the young men and women in the community were

educated on sexual health, responsibility, abstinence and relationship/self-esteem issues related to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, The Juneteenth Summer Formal has become Gamma Iota Lambda's

signature event at which it proudly celebrates Juneteenth, the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery, raises funds for its Scholarship Program for first year college students and honors members of the community who exemplify the principles of Alpha Phi Alpha and help to support and further its mission; 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 recognized and celebrated 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 Gamma Iota Lambda Alumni Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity upon the occasion of hosting its Juneteenth Summer Formal on June 18, 2016, and paying tribute to this year's honorees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Stephen Mortley-Edwards, President, Gamma Iota Lambda Alumni Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and to the aforementioned honorees.