

2019-J1996

Senate Resolution No. 1996

BY: Senator MONTGOMERY

COMMEMORATING the 40th Anniversary of Black
Veterans for Social Justice, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those illustrious organizations of the State of New York whose focus and intent have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, Job Mashariki founded Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc., an organization that was an outgrowth of the social justice movement; it is the largest private community-based agency serving New York City's Veterans, their families and the community; Mr. Mashariki served as President/CEO for 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Black Veterans for Social Justice (BVSJ) was initially established to assist veterans of the Vietnam War reintegrate with their families, communities, and the greater society; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization has evolved since its humble

beginnings to become a true fixture in the community, providing tender loving care and a listening ear to all veterans and community residents who seek to be a productive part of society; and

WHEREAS, BVSJ annually serves an average of 12,000 clients, maintains 400 units of housing and several commercial spaces, and provides an array of programs and social services, including its Veteran Service Center, Homeless Veterans Reintegration Programs, Job To Build On/Consortium Of Worker Education, Advocacy and Cultural Activities, Division of Housing Management, Solutions to End Homelessness Program (STEHP), Food Pantry Service, HIV/AIDS Prevention & Outreach, and Veterans Advisory Groups (VAG); and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, Black Veterans for Social Justice is dedicated to servicing military personnel, veterans and their families in the areas of social readjustment, housing, employment, compensation, disability, substance abuse, medical treatment, Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, family intervention, prison counseling and relocation into the community, legal advocacy, discharge up-grade and redress of grievances within and outside the military; and

WHEREAS, Black Veterans for Social Justice believes all persons can be productive, positive contributors to society, regardless of race, sex, social class, military labels or problems beset on them; it also believes all humans wish to do the right thing, but do not often get the opportunity, and given a helping hand, all people, particularly veterans, will respond positively and productively; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished 40-year history, Black Veterans for Social Justice has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of Black Veterans for Social Justice is in direct correlation to the efforts of its Chief Executive Officer Wendy McClinton, as well as its dedicated staff and Board of Directors, 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, This auspicious occasion presents an opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to Black Veterans for Social Justice; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals and 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 commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Wendy McClinton, Chief Executive Officer, Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc.