

## 2021-J2540

Senate Resolution No. 2540

BY: Senator THOMAS

HONORING Elaine Gross, MSW, upon the occasion of  
her designation as recipient of the 2022 ERASE  
Racism Abraham Krasnoff Courage and Commitment Award

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to act, in accord  
with its long-standing traditions, to honor leaders of social justice  
advocacy, whose character and achievements best exemplify the ideals and  
values cherished by this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Elaine  
Gross, MSW, upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the  
2022 ERASE Racism Abraham Krasnoff Courage and Commitment Award in  
recognition of her exceptional accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, The ERASE Racism Abraham Krasnoff Courage and Commitment  
Award honors leaders who have best demonstrated their commitment to  
fight against the struggle against racism on Long Island; and

WHEREAS, The Abraham Krasnoff Courage and Commitment Award is the  
highest recognition at the ERASE Racism's Annual Benefit; and

WHEREAS, ERASE Racism is a regional organization which leads public  
policy advocacy campaigns and related initiatives to promote racial  
equity in areas such as housing, public school education, and community  
development; Long Island, New York was the site of ERASE Racism's

initial work and continues to be its geographic home and key focus area;  
and

WHEREAS, As recipient of this prestigious award, Elaine Gross,  
Founder and President of ERASE Racism, truly embodies the influence of  
ERASE Racism; and

WHEREAS, Elaine Gross has led ERASE Racism to prominence as a  
champion of fair housing, starting the statewide campaign that, in 2019,  
led to New York's enactment of a ban on housing discrimination against  
people who depend on legal non-wage sources of income for their rent;  
and

WHEREAS, Elaine Gross also initiated research on racial  
discrimination in the rental housing market on Long Island that led to  
successful legal action against discriminatory apartment owners and  
managers in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties, providing a model for  
Newsday's landmark 2019 study "Long Island Divided"; and

WHEREAS, Elaine Gross has similarly provided the vision and  
programmatic leadership for ERASE Racism's Education Equity Initiative,  
which works collaboratively with educators, students and parents to take  
evidenced-based strategic actions including educational campaigns on the  
benefits of diverse learning environments, comprised of diverse students  
and teachers, policy advocacy and promotion of culturally responsive  
education that can sustain all students, professional development for  
teachers, and leadership development for students; and

WHEREAS, Elaine Gross is a member of the Long Island Regional  
Economic Development Council and the Board of Directors of the State of  
New York Mortgage Agency, as well as other boards; and

WHEREAS, Elaine Gross was hired in 2001 by the Long Island Community Foundation, where she conceived and launched the ERASE Racism Initiative, which became an independent not-for-profit corporation in 2004; her previous experience includes serving as Founding Executive Director of Sustainable America, Program Officer at the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, Deputy Director of the Boston Housing Partnership, and Human Services Director at the Boston Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to honor Elaine Gross, MSW, recognizing the value of her accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Elaine Gross, MSW, upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2022 ERASE Racism Abraham Krasnoff Courage and Commitment Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Elaine Gross.