

Proclamation



HONORING CLINTON COMMUNITY GARDEN ON 30 YEARS AS PRESERVED PARKLAND

WHEREAS, FROM THE MID-1950S UNTIL 1978, THE SITE OF THE **CLINTON COMMUNITY GARDEN** WAS COMPRISED OF TWO ABANDONED LOTS RIDDLED WITH RUBBLE, RUSTED OUT CARS, TRASH AND OTHER DEBRIS; AND

WHEREAS, IN 1978, WEST 48TH STREET RESIDENTS ORGANIZED TO CLEAN UP THE LOTS, AND, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION GREEN GUERRILLAS, LEASED THE SITE FROM THE CITY; AND

WHEREAS, DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS CREATED AND TENDED TO A PUBLIC FRONT GARDEN WITH A LAWN AND FLOWER BEDS AND A BACK AREA WITH INDIVIDUAL 5' X 8' PLOTS; AND

WHEREAS, IN 1982, VOLUNTEER GARDENERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS UNITED WITH HOUSING CONSERVATION COORDINATORS, THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND AND THE GREEN GUERRILLAS TO STOP A CITY PLAN TO AUCTION OFF THE LOTS; AND

WHEREAS, THAT FIGHT LED TO THE LAUNCH OF AN INNOVATIVE AND WILDLY SUCCESSFUL \$5-PER-SQUARE-INCH FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN, AIDED BY A SUBSTANTIAL GIFT FROM THE CLINTON FUND, SO THAT **CLINTON COMMUNITY GARDEN** WAS IN A POSITION TO TRY TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY FROM THE CITY ITSELF; AND

WHEREAS, IN THE FACE OF STRONG AND HIGH-PROFILE SUPPORT FOR THE GARDEN, IN 1984, THE CITY REVERSED COURSE ON ITS PLANNED AUCTION AND INSTEAD TRANSFERRED THE PROPERTY TO PARKS DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION, MAKING **CLINTON COMMUNITY GARDEN** THE FIRST COMMUNITY GARDEN IN NEW YORK CITY TO BE GRANTED PERMANENT PARKLAND STATUS; AND

WHEREAS, OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS, **CLINTON COMMUNITY GARDEN** HAS CONTINUED TO THRIVE, BOASTING 108 INDIVIDUAL PLOTS IN THE REAR GARDEN, A PUBLIC FRONT LAWN INCLUDING A GRAPE ARBOR, ROCK GARDEN AND FLOWER BEDS, AND A WINDING NATIVE AMERICAN TRAIL WITH OVER 100 INDIGENOUS, MEDICINAL PLANTS; AND

WHEREAS, TO FURTHER SERVE THE COMMUNITY, **CLINTON COMMUNITY GARDEN** HOSTS EVENTS RANGING FROM POTLUCK DINNERS TO DANCE RECITALS AND ALSO SERVES AS A CLASSROOM FOR SCIENCE AND ART STUDENTS; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT I, NEW YORK STATE SENATOR BRAD HOYLMAN, RECOGNIZE THAT IN **CLINTON COMMUNITY GARDEN** WE HAVE AN ORGANIZATION WORTHY OF OUR HIGHEST RESPECT AND ESTEEM; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT I, NEW YORK STATE SENATOR BRAD HOYLMAN, DECLARE SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 TO BE **CLINTON COMMUNITY GARDEN DAY** IN NEW YORK STATE'S 27TH SENATE DISTRICT.



DATED: SEPTEMBER 30, 2014
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO
SET MY HAND AND SIGNATURE

BRAD HOYLMAN
NEW YORK STATE SENATE, 27TH DISTRICT