

2013-J255

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Rabbi Deanna Pasternak upon the occasion of her 35th Anniversary as an Educator of the Jewish Faith

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry and education of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Rabbi Deanna Pasternak upon the occasion of her 35th Anniversary as an Educator of the Jewish Faith to be celebrated on Saturday, June 22, 2013 in Temple B'nai Torah in Wantagh, New York; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Queens College, Rabbi Deanna Pasternak moved to Long Island with her two young children, and joined Community Reform Temple (CRT) in Westbury, New York; and

WHEREAS, Deanna Pasternak began co-teaching with her husband at CRT in the Religious school; together, they taught for many years in various other temples, fueling her desire to learn more and more; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Deanna Pasternak began taking Hebrew Union College extension courses; she later enrolled in Morasha Teacher's Training program given by the BJE and Touro College, graduating with Jewish educator certification; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Deanna Pasternak's spiritual journey grew as she studied Tanach and other subjects in the program with various rabbis including those who were Orthodox and Chabad; and

WHEREAS, At that time, Rabbi Deanna Pasternak was offered a job teaching Hebrew and Jewish Studies in the only Reform Jewish Day School on Long Island, The Liberal Jewish Day school; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Deanna Pasternak later applied for the Educational Director's position at Union Reform Temple in Freeport, New York and was hired; while there, she brought her vision of family oriented classes and special programs to the school during her time there; and

WHEREAS, When the position of Director of Education at the then Suburban Temple opened, Rabbi Deanna Pasternak applied and was subsequently hired for the position; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Deanna Pasternak's role as Director provided her with the opportunity to grow further, both professionally and spiritually; she became an integral part of the Temple and decided she wanted to further pursue a career in the rabbinate; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Deanna Pasternak completed her studies at the American Seminary for Contemporary Judaism in Baldwin, New York, and was ordained in June 2009; and

WHEREAS, Shortly before her ordination, Suburban Temple merged with Temple Judea of Massapequa, and Rabbi Deanna Pasternak was chosen to lead the newly combined school; and

WHEREAS, When Deanna Pasternak became a Rabbi in the second year of the merger, she was able to add another dimension to the programming at Temple B'nai Torah, helping to lead various services, including burials and shivas, plus counseling, all while still running a viable and vibrant religious school as well as leading Tefillah for the middle grades; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Deanna Pasternak has had a love for Judaism and the Jewish religion since childhood on the Lower East Side; she is the epitome of the Jewish force to never stop learning, and to then use that learning in positive ways to help improve the world; she has always had this personal connection to people and will continue to do so; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is

appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Rabbi Deanna Pasternak upon the occasion of her 35th Anniversary as an Educator of the Jewish Faith; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Deanna Pasternak.