

2013-J673

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending New York Harbor School upon the occasion of celebrating its 10th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize organizations of commitment and high achievement whose purpose and endeavor are dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in its communities, and to the development of responsible citizens and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize and commend New York Harbor School upon the occasion of celebrating its 10th Anniversary at Manhattan's New York Yacht Club; and

WHEREAS, From a simple question spoken in the summer of 2002, a maritime school was conceived in hopes of providing a rigorous, college-preparatory education built upon New York City's maritime experience that can instill in students excellence, discipline and interdependence to lead the future; and

WHEREAS, With only eight qualified and dedicated teachers and 125 students, 90% of whom fell below or far below grade level in math and reading, New York Harbor School opened its doors in the fall of 2003 to begin a wonderful voyage, setting its course on inquiry-based, hands-on learning in a natural environment on land and open shores; and

WHEREAS, With the preliminary challenges of beginning a new school, implementing a never before taught curriculum, in a city where everyone watches, New York Harbor School stimulated their students' curiosity and critical thinking in the classroom and on the waters, resulting in their first graduating class of 2007 and a graduation rate well over 80%; and

WHEREAS, The small size of New York Harbor School has in turn become one of the major benefits for their students, allowing them a larger stake in decision making, increased personal attention with faculty and staff, eventually resulting in the school receiving a grade of "A" on its New York City Department of Education report card for the 2009 and 2010 school years; and

WHEREAS, Looking forward on their journey, New York Harbor School recognizes that their small yet strong faculty plays an imperative role

in shaping their students' lives as successful leaders, so much that one of their former students has rejoined the school as a full-time Teaching Assistant in the Vessel Operations and Aquaculture programs, ready to share his maritime passion with future students; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend New York Harbor School upon the occasion of celebrating its 10th Anniversary at Manhattan's New York Yacht Club; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to New York Harbor School.