Whereas: In 1964, at the height of the Civil Rights movement, the City University of New York (CUNY) Board of Higher Education established the College Discovery program as an experiment at each of the community colleges. The goal of the program was to demonstrate that, given proper support services, students who were being excluded from the University because of existing admissions criteria could attain a college degree and

WHEREAS: Five years later, the Board extended College Discovery beyond its experimental phase and became a permanent University program in the community colleges with the mission of developing college potential among low-income students whose previous academic performance does not reflect their potential. Since its inception 50 years ago, CUNY's College Discovery has enrolled approximately 160,000 students, transforming their lives and educational trajectory; and

WHEREAS: Higher education innovation is a hallmark of College Discovery. Many currently common best practices were piloted in College Discovery. Among them are pre-freshman summer programs, freshman seminars, and formal basic skills courses; and

WHEREAS: Today, College Discovery continues the tradition of innovation through mentoring programs, the grant-funded College Discovery Scholars program, and membership in the national honors society, Chi Alpha Epsilon. Through its three-pronged approach of providing intrusive student success initiatives—academic support, counseling, and financial aid—College Discovery has produced outstanding student outcomes. At each of the six College Discovery community colleges, student retention is higher than for non-CD admits; and

WHEREAS: College Discovery three-year graduation rates are higher than those of non-CD students at each college. The University total is eight percentage points higher. At the individual campuses, the difference varies and is as much as 17 percentage points higher in College Discovery. College Discovery graduates are far more likely to enroll in bachelor's programs than regular admits—46 percent for regular admits as compared to 69 percent for College Discovery graduates; and

WHEREAS: CUNY's College Discovery Program has enabled thousands of low-income, underachieving high school graduates to improve their lives and contribute financial and intellectual resources of New York City and State, and we wish it continued success in the years ahead; now therefore

BE IT KNOWN: That the Council of the City of New York gratefully honors

The CUNY College Discovery Program

in celebration of its

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Signed this 12th day of December in the year Twenty Fourteen.

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker
For the Entire Council

INEZ D. BARRON
Higher Education Committee

YDANDI RODRIGUEZ
Council Member, 10th District
Manhattan

JAMES VACCA
Council Member, 13th District
Bronx

FERNANDO CABRERA
Vanessa L. Gibson
Council Member, 14th District

LAURIE A. CUMBO
Council Member, 15th District

JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
Council Member, 45th District

In celebration of its

50TH ANNIVERSARY