Whereas, it is my intent to recognize the work of individuals and institutions with a singular vision who effect enduring and positive change in their communities; and

Whereas, in 1969, struggles for student rights, self-determination and community mobilization led to the creation of a new department at Brooklyn College, the City University of New York. Fifty years later, the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies is the third oldest department of its kind in the country, and today the people of New York celebrate its vital contributions to our city's education and culture; and

Whereas, the work of the faculty and staff of the Brooklyn College Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies reflects a dedicated effort to bring the Puerto Rican and Latino communities into the college while maintaining high academic standards throughout the City University of New York. Over the last five decades, it has continuously expanded its focus. Now, stronger than ever in its convictions, advocacy, sense of academic purpose and interdisciplinary approach in the face of adversity, the department has created an agenda to educate our city's growing diverse populations; and

Whereas, the Brooklyn College Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies has played a critical role in creating the Puerto Rican Studies Association and has forged local, national and international academic alliances, combining the department's pursuit of excellence, solidarity and community with the reality of living in a state as varied and multi-acted as New York. Today's event celebrates 50 years of achievement and commitment to the ideals of a greater society for all New Yorkers; and

Whereas, the state's and city's distinguished educational institutions are a vital part of the fabric of life in New York and Brooklyn and make an important contribution to the quality of life of our citizens and communities, so it is most fitting that we commemorate their milestone events; and

Whereas, I salute and commend the faculty and staff of the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies as they commemorate this milestone anniversary; now, therefore, let it be

Proclaimed, that I, Marcela Mitaynes, New York Assemblymember for the 51st Assembly District, do hereby honor the faculty and staff of the Brooklyn College Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies for their service to the communities of Brooklyn and to all of New York State on this day.

Dated: May 26, 2021
In Witness Whereof, I have Hereunto
Set My Hand and Signature

Marcela Mitaynes
New York State Assembly
51st Assembly District