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ROBERTUS COLEMAN STREET CO-NAMING RESOLUTION **RESOLUTION: TO SUPPORT THE CO-NAMING OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER** **OF WEST 114TH STREET & FREDERICK DOUGLASS BOULEVARD TO** **ROBERTUS COLEMAN PLACE**

WHEREAS, Manhattan Community Board 10 recommends the co-naming of the Northeast corner of West 114th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard to Robertus Coleman Place.

WHEREAS, Robertus Coleman, a native of Alabama, brought her steadfast spirit to Harlem, New York City, where she became an unparalleled force for her community; and

WHEREAS, With over 30 years of service in the Bell Atlantic Teley Company, Ms. Coleman laid the groundwork for her later endeavors, and transitioned into community activism; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Coleman served as the Tenant Association President for over four decades on the block of West 114th Street between Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard & Fredrick Douglass Boulevard. Her leadership went beyond the title, i.e., closing the block for Police Athletic League (PAL) play street every summer and organizing yearly community trips, fostering unity among neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Coleman's impact reached far beyond the block, she tirelessly advocated for the underserved, ensuring their voices were heard by elected officials and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, In addition to Ms. Coleman's advocacy and leadership, Robertus was a pillar of support in practical ways. She ran a food pantry, organized employment opportunities for residents with developers, and facilitated teen employment through the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP); and

WHEREAS, The West 114th Street block was became known as the Sesame Street of Harlem due to the large population of children. Countless block parties, often attended by local city & state elected officials, served as celebrations of community strength and resilience; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Coleman also played a crucial role in enhancing the physical environment of the block, working with the New York City Housing Authority to plant trees, install benches and improve public spaces inclusive of two kid-friendly parks; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Coleman was instrumental in a multi-million-dollar project aimed at keeping housing affordable, ensuring that residents continued to call West 114th Street home; With that came a Social Service Department, that Ms. Cohen, Director of Program Operations, assisted tenants with employment, training, yoga, Zumba, healthy cooking classes and pantry deliveries to the elderly and sick&shut in. Her legacy as a mother, leader, and visionary to the community lives

on in the countless lives she touched, nurtured, providing guidance to children beyond her own biological family; and

WHEREAS, Robertus Coleman's unwavering commitment to justice and compassion served as a beacon of hope for generations yet to come, leaving an indelible mark on Harlem and beyond; and

WHEREAS, The Robertus Coleman Memorial Committee presented before the Transportation, Landmarks and Historic Preservation Committee on May 14th, 2024, where the Committee voted unanimously to support the resolution; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Committee voted on May 29th 2024, where the Committee voted unanimously to support the resolution; and

WHEREAS, The full Manhattan Community Board 10 voted unanimously in support of the resolution with 33 votes on June 5th, 2024, to support the resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Manhattan Community Board 10 strongly recommends the preservation of the renowned legacy of community activist, Robertus Coleman by honoring her through the co-naming of the Northeast corner of West 114th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard to Robertus Coleman Place.