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Proposed Res. No 142-A

Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, legislation to establish the Center for Fatherhood Initiatives under the Office of Children and Family Services

By Council Members Riley, Louis, J. Sanchez, Krishnan, Brooks-Powers, Williams, Epstein, Narcisse and Farías

Whereas, Fathers play a critical role in the development and well-being of children, serving as foundational figures in their lives; and

Whereas, Research from the National Institutes of Health consistently shows that children with engaged, present, and active fathers experience more favorable outcomes, such as improved cognitive development, enhanced behavioral development, better general health and well-being, more positive perceptions of men, higher academic achievement, and greater self-esteem; and

Whereas, Many fathers face systemic barriers and challenges that impede their ability to fully engage in their children's lives, particularly those who are co-parenting or non-custodial, incarcerated or undergoing reentry, young or teen fathers, and new fathers who require support in navigating their role; and

Whereas, The New York State Senate bill S5228A, sponsored by Senator Jamaal Bailey, and New York State Assembly bill A1211A, sponsored by Assemblyman Landon Dais, seeks to address these barriers by directing the Office of Children and Family Services to establish a Center for Fatherhood Initiatives, which would issue grants to organizations across New York State to implement programs promoting and advancing fatherhood; and

Whereas, The establishment of such a center would create a robust framework for providing fathers with the resources, support networks, and parenting education they need to strengthen their parenting

knowledge, attitudes, and self-efficacy, which will ultimately lead to improved family dynamics and stronger communities; and

Whereas, The City of New York recognizes the importance of addressing the unique needs of fathers and supporting their integral role in child development and family well-being; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, legislation to establish the Center for Fatherhood Initiatives under the Office of Children and Family Services.

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