

THE COUNCIL



CITY OF NEW YORK



Proclamation

W

hereas: *The Council of the City of New York is proud to honor Frank Buonagurio for his philanthropy and many years of leadership in the small business communities of Jackson Heights and Elmhurst; and*

WHEREAS: *Mr. Buonagurio, a native of Astoria, switched careers midstream and returned to college to become a pharmacist. In 1991, he achieved a personal dream when he opened the doors to Frank's Pharmacy in the historic district of Jackson Heights at 76th Street and 37th Avenue. Within weeks, the new business became a favorite of locals, distinguishing itself via a combination of old-fashioned service and a modern approach to healthcare; and*

WHEREAS: *Frank's Pharmacy is a family-owned and operated independent pharmacy and has been in business for 23 years. It serves the Queens communities of Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, and Woodside, offering a level of personalized treatment and neighborhood hospitality that has all but faded from the American business landscape. While he prefers to stay out of the limelight, his steadfast dedication to caring and quality is why Frank's Pharmacy has been a profound success; and*

WHEREAS: *In 2001, booming business compelled Frank's Pharmacy to relocate to 75th Street and 37th Avenue in the Bruson Building. People unhappy with the corporate chains flocked to Frank's for warm and dependable service—and for prices that stayed competitive with the big-box stores. Brisk business meant that he had the opportunity to give back to the community in various charitable ways. The many beneficiaries of his charitable contributions include: Tasmira; St. Joan of Arc Church; The American Legion; Jackson Heights Beautification Group; and the Coler-Goldwater Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility on Roosevelt Island; and*

WHEREAS: *Frank's Pharmacy is truly a family business. In 1991, when the first location opened, Frank's father, Frank Buonagurio, Sr., had just retired from a three-decade career running a popular Manhattan Theatre District restaurant called La Strada. Frank Sr. was asked by his son to install shelves in the new pharmacy. He liked the atmosphere of the store so much that he decided to stay on. He was the greeter at Frank's Pharmacy every day for three decades until he passed away in 2011 at age 85. The other partner in this enterprise is Frank's twin sister Grace Buonagurio, who was born and raised alongside him in Astoria. A veteran of the financial industry, she began at Frank's Pharmacy as a part-time bookkeeper until her brother persuaded her to join the business full-time; and*

WHEREAS: *On the evening of April 21, 2014, a five-alarm fire began at the Bruson Building. Frank's was among several tenants whose businesses were completely destroyed by the inferno. This could have meant the end of Frank's Pharmacy—but even before the flames were out, Mr. Buonagurio made a vow that he would rebuild. Support came from all over encouraging him to reopen; and*

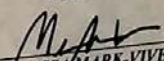
WHEREAS: *The reopening of Frank's Pharmacy is a celebratory event, not only for the Buonagurio family and staff, but for the neighborhood customers that have come to depend on the establishment for their complete healthcare needs. The new location for Frank's Pharmacy at 77-01 37th Avenue is a full-circle homecoming, as well. It is the former home of Maram Pharmacy, where Mr. Buonagurio worked in the early 1990s. This Grand Reopening promises to be the happiest chapter of the ongoing story of Frank's Pharmacy; now, therefore*


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

Frank Buonagurio

for his many years of outstanding service to our community.

Signed this 26th day of October in the year Twenty Fourteen.


MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker
For the Entire Council


DANIEL DROMM
Council Member, 25th District
Queens