Honoring Team Sporeos at International Preparatory School

I Hereby Certify, that at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County, held in the County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 21st day of February, A.D. 2019, a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

WHEREAS, the "Sporeos" is a team of students at International Preparatory School, School 198 at Grover Cleveland High School ("I Prep") in Buffalo that is working on a science project involving the sending of Bacillus subtilis spores to the International Space Station ("ISS") to test this bacteria that is naturally found in soil and vegetation; and

WHEREAS, understanding the mechanisms that drive cell differentiation and morphogenesis are essential in answering the question of how organisms develop, and one approach has been to study the relatively simple developmental program of endospore formation ("sporulation") in the bacterium Bacillus subtilis; and

WHEREAS, this research is important because sporulation has long been used as a model system to help elucidate basic processes of developmental biology including transcription regulation, intercellular signaling, membrane remodeling, protein localization, and cell fate determination; and

WHEREAS, Team Sporeos is representing Western New York in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program ("SSEP"). SSEP was launched in June 2010 by the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education. Designed as a model U.S. national Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education initiative, the program gives students in a participating community the ability to design and propose real microgravity experiments to fly in low Earth orbit on the International Space Station; and

WHEREAS, SSEP is about immersing and engaging students and their teachers in every facet of real science on the high frontier so that students are given the chance to be scientists and experience science firsthand, and SSEP is about a commitment to student ownership in exploration, to science as journey, and to the joys of learning; and

WHEREAS, Team Sporeos is advised by International Preparatory School teacher Andrew Franz, who, in 2015, led a team of students from Buffalo Public School 74 who won a competition to send a potato experiment to the International Space Station. That team, the "Spudlaunchers", went to Cape Canaveral to see their rocket launch in February 2017 and presented at the Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC in June 2017; and
WHEREAS, Team Sporeos is seeking the same opportunity to see their Bacillus subtilis spores go to the ISS and engage in meaningful and important science; and

WHEREAS, the project required students to often engage in three hours per day of work typing and researching after school without a grade, but the students did this work because they found the work rewarding; and

WHEREAS, as part of this program, Mr. Franz will be taking Team Sporeos to the Kennedy Space Center to watch the launch of their experiment into space in Spring/Summer 2019 as well as providing a unique experience for the students to go to Walt Disney World and Universal Studios and to travel to Washington, DC for the SSEP Conference to present their findings in Spring 2020; and

WHEREAS, given the socioeconomic issues affecting families at IPrep, community financial assistance to help pay for this trip for the students and their advisors is needed to help encourage these students and students of all backgrounds on the importance of STEM careers and education, and to show students that their hard work will pay off; and

WHEREAS, one way to help the students is through crowd-funding, and Mr. Franz has started a campaign to raise money for Team Sporeos at https://www.gofundme.com/ssep-launch-conference?sharetype=teams&member=1550314&rcid=r01-15499114571-3160f0452c764ea7&pc=ot_co_campmgmt_whttps://www.gofundme.com/ssep-launch-conference?sharetype=teams&member=1550314&rcid=r01-15499114571-3160f0452c764ea7&pc=ot_co_campmgmt_w.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature recognizes Team Sporeos at International Preparatory Public School 198 for their hard work, commitment to science and education and participation representing our community in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body urges community members and leaders to consider supporting Team Sporeos in their project and in their funding outreach in order that the students can travel to Kennedy Space Center to watch the launch of their experiment into space in Spring/Summer 2019 and to Washington, DC for the SSEP Conference to present their findings in Spring 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body expresses its appreciation and best wishes to teacher Andrew Franz and Team Sporeos for continued success in their scientific and educational endeavors.
Hon. Kevin R. Hardwick
Erie County Legislator, 4th District

Hon. Timothy J. Meyers
Erie County Legislator, 7th District

Hon. John Bruso
Erie County Legislator, 8th District

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Legislature