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Title: Resolution commemorating Yom Ha'Atzma'Ut, Israeli Independence Day, on April 23, 2007.

Sponsors: Michael C. Nelson, Tony Avella, Gale A. Brewer, Lewis A. Fidler, James F. Gennaro, Alan J. Gerson, Sara M. Gonzalez, Letitia James, Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., James Sanders, Jr., Peter F. Vallone, Jr., David I. Weprin, James S. Oddo

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Res. No. 722

Resolution commemorating Yom Ha'Atzma'Ut, Israeli Independence Day, on April 23, 2007.

By Council Members Nelson, Avella, Brewer, Fidler, Gennaro, Gerson, Gonzalez, James, Recchia Jr., Sanders Jr., Vallone, Weprin and Oddo

Whereas, When Israel was officially recognized as a state on May 14, 1948, on the 5th day of the Hebrew month of Iyar, for the first time in over 2,000 years of wandering, the Jewish people finally had a homeland; and

Whereas, Prior to the founding of the State of Israel, Jews had been displaced, persecuted and subjected to institutional bigotry in country after country, century after century; and

Whereas, Anti-Semitism reached its most horrific height with the onset of the Holocaust, perhaps the worst act of genocidal persecution in the history of man, and a dark period that we will soon commemorate on April 15th of this year, Yom Ha'Shoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day; and

Whereas, When the United Nations proclaimed Israel the Jewish homeland and a nation of the modern

world, a hopeful new era was born while the ashes of a war-torn Europe, where six million Jews were executed at the hands of the Nazis, would forever serve as a foundation of the mission of Israel - to provide a safe haven for all Jews; and

Whereas, Today, Israel is indeed a refuge for its citizens and for Jews all over the world, many of who fled anti-Semitic persecution in countries like the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia; and

Whereas, Now over a half-century old, the State of Israel has made vast contributions and advancements to such fields as medicine, technology, agriculture and the arts; and

Whereas, A perfect contrast of new and old, Israel offers a singular wealth of history and culture, which has not escaped the millions of religious pilgrims and tourists who visit every year; and

Whereas, Since its inception, Israel has faced great adversity from neighboring nations, but it has persevered and has managed to create a society built on the very freedoms and principles that the Jewish people have been carrying with them for thousands of years; and

Whereas, Yom Ha'Atzma'Ut, a national holiday in Israel, which is preceded by Yom Ha'Zikkaron, a day of remembrance for fallen Israeli soldiers, is a time for all New Yorkers and all Americans to join the Israeli people and Jews everywhere in celebrating the birth of the great State of Israel; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York commemorates Yom Ha'Atzma'Ut, Israeli Independence Day, on April 23, 2007.

JN
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