

State of New York
Legislative Resolution

Senate No. 870

BY: Senator Paterson



FILE

COMMENDING The Chinese Staff & Workers' Association, Inc. for its persistent and courageous efforts on behalf of the New York City Chinese communities

WHEREAS, The Chinese Staff & Workers' Association, Inc. was founded in 1978 by union and non-union workers with a vision to form an organization for workers of all trades, ages and genders to advance basic labor and human rights in the work place and in the community through organizing, education and training; and

WHEREAS, The Chinese Staff & Workers' Association has, over the ensuing years, helped the workers of Manhattan's Chinatown and Brooklyn's Sunset Park gain union status in the garment industry even though the workers of these sweatshops are still victims of non-compliance with union rules and New York labor laws; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, The Chinese Staff & Workers' Association mounted the Campaign for Economic Justice at Foley Square and was successful in forcing the United States General Services Administration to award jobs on the construction of the Foley Square Federal office building and Federal Courthouse to over 100 Asian workers where before there had been only two employed; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, The Chinese Staff & Workers' Association, after a seven month picket of the Silver Palace Restaurant was successful in organizing that restaurant as Chinatown's only unionized restaurant; and

WHEREAS, In January 1997, the Attorney General of New York, working with The Chinese Staff & Workers' Association, brought suit against the Jing Fong restaurant for \$1.5 million for paying "slave wages" and withholding wages and tips from waiters and other workers; and

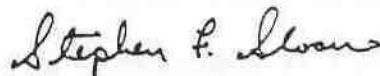
WHEREAS, Within 24 hours of the Attorney General announcing the suit, The Chinese Staff & Workers' Association was publicly condemned by Chinatown bosses and their headquarters at 15 Catherine Street was fire bombed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body condemns such violence against the people and property of Chinatown and abhors the use of violence in any form, especially as an alternative to peaceful labor negotiations and commends The Chinese Staff & Workers' Association for its persistent and courageous efforts on behalf of the workers and residents of New York City's Chinese communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Chinese Staff & Workers' Association, Inc.

ADOPTED IN SENATE ON
April 2, 1997

By order of the Senate,


Stephen F. Sloan, Secretary

