Whereas, Brooklyn has a long and illustrious tradition of academic excellence among its educational institutions, and it is most fitting that we recognize the milestone events marked by those institutions, who have risen to the highest ranks in their endeavors; and we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those who have devoted their careers to the propagation of knowledge and learning; and that we join in acknowledgment of their special events and occasions; and

Whereas, all of Brooklyn joins the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, CUNY—Brooklyn College, faculty, students, family, friends, and distinguished guests to celebrate the momentous occasion of their 50th anniversary, and to acknowledge and recognize the outstanding contributions they have made towards education and our community; and

Whereas, on behalf of all Brooklynites, I salute the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at CUNY—Brooklyn College; and also the third Puerto Rican Studies (PRS) Department founded in the United States; I applaud their 50th anniversary that is a tribute to the legacy of the Puerto Rican youth that brought about lasting societal change and the culmination of a department that has endured and excelled against many obstacles; I acknowledge the Puerto Rican Alliance founded the Institute of PRS in 1969; and is the first in the nation that lead to the creation of the department in the Fall of 1970; I recognize that through the coalition-building, demonstrations, and arrests of the BC 19, PRS was established; I appreciate it was based upon critical thinking, interdisciplinarity, intersectionality, anti-racist and decolonial pedagogy; I commend the PRS for prompting the academy that became more expansive, while empowering the students to serve their communities; I acknowledge them for being at the forefront of enhancing knowledge about Puerto Ricans/Latinx, and playing a key role in founding the Center for PRS and the PRS Association; I laud the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies for providing students with the critical skills to navigate a diverse and globally interdependent world through the study of Latino arts, culture, history, literature and society; I applaud them for providing an opportunity to participate in internships and research at the Brooklyn College Center for Latino Studies and the CUNY Center for Puerto Rican Studies; I commend the knowledge and experiences the students gain that will position them for further education in the graduate program, careers in government, public and private schools, universities, public, private, and nonprofit sectors; I appreciate the outstanding leadership the PRS has shown over five decades teaching and mentoring hundreds of students, and working closely with the administration, to effect positive change in the lives of the youth and the communities; and I thank them for all that they have done to touch and improve the lives of so many, while helping to move our communities forward as One Brooklyn;

Now, therefore, I, Eric L. Adams, President of the Borough of Brooklyn, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 26, 2021 as

Department of Puerto Rican & Latino Studies at Brooklyn College, CUNY 50th Anniversary Celebration in Brooklyn, U.S.A.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Borough of Brooklyn to be affixed this 26th day of May 2021.

Eric L. Adams
President of the Borough of Brooklyn