

House Resolution 1383

By: Representatives Dreyer of the 59th, Carter of the 92nd, and Cannon of the 58th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Joseph B. Whitehead Boys and Girls Club; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Joseph B. Whitehead Boys and Girls Club works with hundreds of kids and
4 teens each year to help them reach their full potential by providing an environment where
5 they can feel safe and secure to dream, discover, and develop in programs that focus on
6 helping kids succeed in school, live healthy, and become leaders; and

7 WHEREAS, the Joseph B. Whitehead Boys and Girls Club installed a community garden in
8 the Lakewood neighborhood in the fall of 2018; and

9 WHEREAS, with the help and partnership of HealthMPowers, a nonprofit organization
10 founded in 1999 to promote healthy eating and physical activity among school age children,
11 approximately 25 boys and girls are now utilizing the garden by learning how to grow and
12 prepare food and are actively planning to host a weekly farmers market in the spring; and

13 WHEREAS, the initiative's goal in establishing the garden and partnering with
14 HealthMPowers was to teach children to prepare, plant, tend and harvest crop yields; to
15 encourage good eating habits among children with a goal of eating three fruits and two
16 vegetables a day; by teaching them how to prepare and cook what they grow; and to help
17 young people reach physical and mental fitness goals by providing 30 minutes a day of
18 physical activity while reducing "screen time"; and

19 WHEREAS, the Lakewood community surrounding the Joseph B. Whitehead Boys and Girls
20 Club community is considered to be a "food desert," which is defined by the United States
21 Department of Agriculture as low-income communities located more than one mile from a
22 reliable source of fresh produce and other healthy foods, and the commitment by the Joseph
23 B. Whitehead Boys and Girls Club to establish the garden now provides a much needed
24 avenue of access to healthy, fresh fruits and vegetables for the entire community; and

25 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding achievements of this
26 extraordinary community organization be appropriately recognized.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize and commend the Joseph B. Whitehead Boys and Girls
29 Club for its outstanding dedication to nurturing the spirit, bodies, and minds of the children
30 and all citizens of the Lakewood community.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
33 Joseph B. Whitehead Boys and Girls Club.