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The rich vibrant art form of dance is essential to a healthy society, demonstrating the infinite possibilities for human expression and potential, and facilitating communication within and across cultures. To that end, my office unequivocally supports the 3rd Annual Dance Parade and Festival May 16th 2009 and wholeheartedly commends its mission of their 501©3 non-profit charity:

“To promote dance as an expressive and unifying art form by showcasing all forms of dance, educating the general public about the opportunities to experience dance, and celebrating diversity of dance in New York City by sponsoring a yearly city-wide dance parade and dance festival.”

The organization sustains and advances professional dance as well as inspires those to seek healthy lifestyles through the cultural and health benefits found in dance. Through the ongoing success of this wonderful annual event, we recognize the parade and festival as an important part of New York City’s rich and diverse culture, serving as hub to celebrate over 50 unique styles of dance in “One Parade -- Many Cultures.” As each style of dance unfolds chronologically down Broadway, tourism and the general public benefit not only through this great form of family entertainment, they also learn about and are inspired by over 200 dance groups.

By allowing these organizations access to the “World Stage of Broadway” the parade also addresses the current economic environment and serves to

sustain the city's rich creative resources that allow dance artists and organizations throughout the city to be seen and enjoyed by tens of thousands each year on the Saturday before Memorial Day.

Through the success of Dance Parade, history and importance of dance in New York and throughout the world will be accessible to young and old, professional and avocational. As the parade is open to all to dance, the post parade festival in a city park will feature something for all: free dance workshops, stage performances and all types of family fun.

In addressing the needs, concerns of artists and organizations, the Dance Parade organization provides leadership and services by offering free webpages, participation and float scholarships to emerging dance organizations, as well as by providing educational curriculum to schools, community and retirement centers.

I encourage all of you to volunteer, donate or join in the Dance Parade this year. As a result, New York City dance artists and dance works will be recognized and celebrated internationally as an integral component of the worldwide dance community. And we'll all have fun being a part of it.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alan J. Gerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan J. Gerson

City Council Member, District One