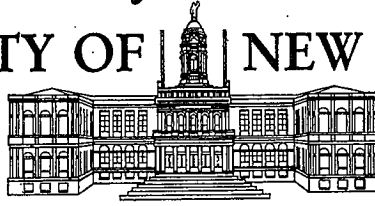


# Office of the Mayor

CITY OF NEW YORK



# Proclamation

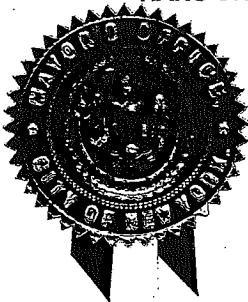
**WHEREAS:** IN A CITY OF EIGHT MILLION STORIES, SOME OF THE MOST CHERISHED ARE THOSE WRITTEN BY HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN, WHO WAS BORN 200 YEARS AGO IN ODENSE, DENMARK. FOR THE LAST 50 YEARS, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN STORYTELLING CENTER, NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN HAVE BEEN GATHERING AT THE STATUE OF HIS LIKENESS IN CENTRAL PARK DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS TO HEAR TALES SUCH AS ANDERSEN'S *THUMBELINA* AND *THE UGLY DUCKLING*, AS WELL AS STORIES BY OTHER AUTHORS FROM MANY DIFFERENT CULTURES.

**WHEREAS:** THE BICENTENNIAL OF ANDERSEN'S BIRTH AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT UPON THE LEGACY OF THIS GREAT AUTHOR, THE IMPORTANCE OF STORYTELLING, AND THE STRONG FRIENDSHIP ENJOYED BY NEW YORK CITY AND DENMARK. THE CENTER WAS THE INSPIRATION OF BARONESS ALMA DAHLERUP, WHO WAS THEN PRESIDENT OF THE DANISH-AMERICAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK. IN 1955, SHE CONVINCED ROBERT MOSES TO SET ASIDE SPACE IN CENTRAL PARK FOR A STATUE OF ANDERSEN, AND THE PARKS COMMISSIONER CHOSE ONE OF THE FINEST LOCATIONS IN THE CITY, NEAR CONSERVATORY POND AT 72N STREET AND FIFTH AVENUE. SINCE THEN, COUNTLESS CHILDREN HAVE GATHERED THER ON SUMMERTIME SATURDAY MORNINGS TO EXPERIENCE THE JOYS OF A SIMPLE TALE WELL TOLD.

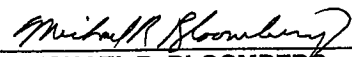
**WHEREAS:** ANDERSEN HIMSELF ONCE SAID, "LIFE ITSELF IS THE MOST WONDERFUL FAIRY TALE." AS WE CONTEMPLATE THE CROWD OF HAPPY CHILDREN SITTING AT THE FEET OF ONE OF HISTORY'S GREAT STORYTELLERS, WE ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY PULLED BACK INTO THE PAST AND NUDGED FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE. ANDERSEN HIMSELF COULDN'T SET A MORE IDYLIC AND COMPELLING SCENE. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION REMINDS US THAT FOR ALL OF THE MYRIAD ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO TODAY'S YOUTH, NOTHING BEATS A GOOD STORY.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, IN RECOGNITION OF BOTH THE BIRTHDAY OF A TIMELESS WRITER AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF A PIONEERING ORGANIZATION, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2005 IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK AS

"HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN STORYTELLING CENTER DAY"



IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK TO BE AFFIXED.

  
MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG  
MAYOR