

2023-K750

Assembly Resolution No. 750

BY: M. of A. Hunter

HONORING Melanie Littlejohn upon the occasion of her retirement after 30 years of distinguished service to National Grid-New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Melanie Littlejohn upon the occasion of her retirement after 30 years of distinguished service to National Grid-New York; and

WHEREAS, For the past 30 years, Melanie Littlejohn has rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to National Grid-New York; and

WHEREAS, Having grown up in Queens, New York, Melanie Littlejohn arrived in Syracuse, New York in 1991 and jumpstarted her career by serving as deputy director of the Urban League of Onondaga County, a civil rights group; and

WHEREAS, Well-educated and respected, Melanie Littlejohn earned a bachelor's degree from SUNY Stony Brook and a Master of Business Administration from Syracuse University's Whitman School of Management;

and

WHEREAS, Prior to 2017 when she was named to her current position, Melanie Littlejohn served as Director of Customer & Community Management in Upstate New York, joining the former Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, in April of 1994 as the Director of Inclusion & Diversity-US Operations; she rose through the ranks to achieve the prestigious position of Vice President of Customer and Community Engagement for National Grid statewide; and

WHEREAS, As Vice President of Customer & Community Engagement for National Grid-New York, Melanie Littlejohn has guided the company's corporate social responsibility effort called Project C, which focuses on spreading positive change across New York communities, supporting initiatives for affordable housing, food giveaways, and community dialogues on race; with her advisement, the company is now looking to address child poverty, racial equity, and other critical issues; and

WHEREAS, With a priority to build and maintain strong relationships that drive superior customer satisfaction, Melanie Littlejohn promotes safety and reliability of the energy networks, emergency management, economic development initiatives, energy efficiency programs, renewable energy solutions and facilitates the process to deliver distributed energy resource projects to support customer and New York State needs; and

WHEREAS, Moving on from National Grid and taking over as president and CEO of the Central New York Community Foundation on March 1, 2024,

Melanie Littlejohn has rendered a myriad of achievements in her time holding the position, such as helping customers recover from Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and personally caring about the company's response to

emergencies; and

WHEREAS, One of the most visible community advocates in the Syracuse community, Melanie Littlejohn volunteers and is on the board of a myriad of organizations, such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Syracuse, where she served 17 years and helped develop the Hamilton Street location; she has served on at least 15 boards since then, including the Community Foundation, which she chaired from 2011 to 2013, Onondaga Community College, CenterState CEO, and Pathfinder Bank; and

WHEREAS, Melanie has also received numerous awards such as the 2022-Yva Jourdan Foundation-Women of Prestige; 2019 Wisdom Keeper, 2014 Partners for Education and Business-Business Leaders Award, the 2012 House of Providence Humanitarian Award, the Network Journal's 25 Influential Black Women in Business award in 2011, the 2011 Leadership Greater Syracuse Distinguished Community Leader Award, 2011 Community Wide Dialogue Racial Justice Award, 2010 NAACP Freedom Award, and CNY 40 Below; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as Vice President of Customer & Community Engagement for National Grid-New York, Melanie Littlejohn served with loyalty, honor and distinction, and was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems in her official acts; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, David, and their children, Jared and Cameron, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens

of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Melanie Littlejohn upon the occasion of her retirement after 30 years of distinguished service to National Grid-New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Melanie Littlejohn.