

2011-K767

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Richard Sheirer, former Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management

WHEREAS, In full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Richard Sheirer, former Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management; and

WHEREAS, September 11, 2011, represents the 10th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States of America, during which the seven buildings of the original World Trade Center complex were destroyed, and almost 3,000 people tragically perished; and

WHEREAS, The City of New York's response and recovery to the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center were largely coordinated by the New York City Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and assisted by dozens of City, State, federal agencies and non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, In February of 2000, Richard Sheirer was appointed Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management; on January 1, 2002, he was named the first Commissioner of New York City's Office of Emergency Management and the City's first Director of Homeland Security; his First Deputy Director was John T. Odermatt who, in March of 2002, succeeded Commissioner Sheirer as the second Commissioner of NYC OEM; and

WHEREAS, During and after September 11, 2001, OEM, under the direction of Mr. Sheirer and Mr. Odermatt, coordinated the largest response, recovery and cleanup effort in American history at the World Trade Center; and

WHEREAS, After losing its offices and Emergency Operation Center (EOC) in 7 World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, OEM used its experience, expertise and ingenuity to set up a temporary EOC at the New York City Police Department's training academy on 21st Street in Manhattan; later,

under his direction, Deputy Director for Administration Mr. Henry Jackson established a fully-functional EOC at Pier 92 on the West Side of Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Sheirer and the OEM staff worked with the Mayor's Office to address the needs of families of uniformed and civilian victims, including coordinating efforts with the New York Commission for the United Nations, Consular Corps and Protocol to address the unique needs of foreign citizens and their families affected by the attack; and

WHEREAS, OEM's various units performed heroically and under great duress to discharge all the duties necessary to respond to and recover from the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center, including the public information center under the direction of Deputy Director Francis E. McCarton, which handled over 25,000 media inquiries; the special projects unit, which coordinated debris removal operations; Watch Command, which maintained communications systems following the disaster; and operations which provided logistical and administrative support to the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams from around the nation; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of St. Francis College, Richard Sheirer is a public safety expert with three decades of experience in law enforcement and crisis management, including having served as the Deputy Commissioner for Administration for the New York City Police Department and Chief of Staff to the Commissioner; before joining the Police Department, he served with the New York City Fire Department for 20 years, having an emphasis on emergency communication issues, rising to the level of Deputy Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, On the 10th Anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center, Richard Sheirer, John T. Odermatt, Henry Jack-

son, and Francis E. McCarton, along with the rest of the staff at OEM during and after September 11, 2001, are to be recognized and commended by the State of New York for their courage, hard work, diligence and

loyalty in the face of seemingly overwhelming challenges; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Richard Sheirer, former Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Richard Sheirer.