

## 2011-K844

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Richard J. Sheirer, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Richard Sheirer, the first Commissioner of New York City's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the City's first Director of Homeland Security, died on Thursday, January 19, 2012; and

WHEREAS, In February 2000, Richard J. Sheirer was appointed Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management; he was later named the first Commissioner of New York City's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the City's first Director of Homeland Security after previously serving as Deputy Fire Commissioner of the New York City Fire Department and as Deputy Commissioner and Chief of Staff of the New York City Police Department; and

WHEREAS, During and after September 11, 2001, OEM, under the direction of Richard Sheirer, coordinated the largest rescue and recovery response effort in American history at the World Trade Center and after losing its offices and Emergency Operation Center (EOC) in 7 World Trade Center on September 11th; Director Sheirer used his experience, expertise and ingenuity to set up a temporary EOC at the New York City Police Department's training academy and later established a fully-functional EOC at Pier 92 on the West Side of Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, Under the direction of Commissioner Sheirer, OEM's various units performed heroically and under great duress to discharge all the duties necessary to respond to and recover from the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, including the public information center,

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, Richard Sheirer, often referred to as "the man behind the mayor" later went on to become Executive Vice President of Giuliani Partners; and

WHEREAS, Richard Sheirer distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Richard Sheirer's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Richard Sheirer is survived by his wife, Barbara, and their children, Matthew, Joseph, Christopher, Andrew and Paul; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Richard Sheirer leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Richard J. Sheirer, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

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