

2013-J114

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Mike Esposito upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Troy Treasure Award by Troy Rehabilitation and Improvement Program, Inc.

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Mike Esposito has given not only of his time and energies but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Mike Esposito upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Troy Treasure Award by Troy Rehabilitation and Improvement Program, Inc. (TRIP); this outstanding individual was recognized at TRIP & RHCR's annual Homecoming Dinner on October 29, 2012, for his tireless, lifelong efforts toward improving Troy and serving as the city's unofficial historian; and

WHEREAS, TRIP created this auspicious award in 2005 to honor residents, community groups or businesses which make a significant difference in the City of Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, Mike Esposito has been a resident of Troy, New York, for most of his 73 years; before Little Italy was known as Little Italy, it was his home; and

WHEREAS, When the decision was made to make a formal Little Italy in South Troy, Mike Esposito was at the forefront of helping to make that happen; early on in his life, he recognized its potential and has dedicated his life to supporting all of Troy through activism, organizing, and recording its history through stories; and

WHEREAS, Perhaps one of Mike Esposito's most ambitious projects was the Arcadia book, TROY'S LITTLE ITALY; he spent years collecting family

photographs, researching the people in them, and recording their stories; and

WHEREAS, For over a year, Mike Esposito held weekly meetings to collect and organize these stories and photos which told the story of his neighborhood; whenever he learned of anyone's family connections in the area, he would track them down, request photographs, and interview them for every detail of their family's life; subsequently, he published an incredible and personable story about the deep history in Troy; and

WHEREAS, Perhaps even more impressive than Mike Esposito's perseverance with this project is how he sparked other residents' interest in Troy's history; through sharing his passion and desire to know more, he gathered a group of dedicated volunteers to help him research and organize material; Troy's Little Italy can be found at Market Block Books on River Street; in addition, Mike is working on a sequel to this book, which will be entitled THE FAMILIES OF TROY'S LITTLE ITALY; and WHEREAS, Mike Esposito has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Though he is enamored with the history of Troy, Mike Esposito is also more than happy to immerse himself in Troy's current goings-on; he is an integral force in helping to organize a myriad of community events, including an annual stickball tournament, celebrations of famous Troy residents such as Nick Brignola and Maureen Stapleton, and Troy's annual International Festival, among others; and

WHEREAS, Mike Esposito also volunteers and organizes through a number of Troy-based organizations, including the Troy Public Library, the Rensselaer County Historical Society, and Troy Little Italy; moreover, he heads up events at the Public Market throughout the year; without

this remarkable individual, there probably would not be a Little Italy; and

WHEREAS, The Public Market certainly would not be the same without

Mike Esposito; at every event, he sets himself at a table fondly known as The Memory Table, where he attracts people who want to know more about their family history, people with more information and family photos, and new friends who sit and discuss the neighborhood throughout the afternoon; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Mike Esposito has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Mike Esposito upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Troy Treasure Award by Troy Rehabilitation and Improvement Program, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mike Esposito.