

2013-J2797

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Mohawk Valley Latino Association

WHEREAS, A great community is only as great as those persons and organizations that provide exemplary service, whether through participation in voluntary programs, through unique personal achievement in their profession or other endeavors, or simply through a lifetime of good citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Mohawk Valley Latino Association on Friday, October 18, 2013, at the Radisson Hotel-Utica Centre in Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, Situated on the third floor of the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, the office for the Mohawk Valley Latino Association is not the first organized effort to aid Latinos in the area; others include the Hispanic American Action League in the 1970s, the 1980s-era Latin American Society for Togetherness, and Hispanos Unidos in the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, People from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and other Hispanic populations started migrating to the Mohawk Valley in the 1800s, and even more rapidly after World War II; as of 2010, there were 11,245 Latinos in Oneida County, according to U.S. Census data, compared to the 7,545 in 2000; and

WHEREAS, The current incarnation of the agency started in 2003 with the former and current presidents -- Sonia Martinez and Anthony Colon, respectively; the organization formed bilingual GED programs, English-as-a-second-language classes and conducted cultural events such as the annual Latino American Festival, and meetings took place in a Radisson

Hotel conference room; and

WHEREAS, President Anthony Colon cites that the agency's involvement with the local branch of the NAACP and the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees is of great benefit; and

WHEREAS, The association has gone beyond the Latino populations where nearly one third of the 50 to 70 individual members and businesses involved are non-Latino; and

WHEREAS, The Mohawk Valley Latino Association's distinguished record merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Mohawk Valley Latino Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to President Anthony Colon, Mohawk Valley Latino Association.