

2013-J2798

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 85th Anniversary of The Stanley Theatre

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those cultural institutions and organizations whose commitment to promoting the richness and diversity of the arts and entertainment world has contributed to the strength, vitality, and cultural enrichment of their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it gives this Legislative Body great pleasure to commemorate the 85th Anniversary of The Stanley Theatre, to be celebrated at its "Roll Out the Red Carpet" 85th Anniversary Party on Saturday, November 2, 2013, and held at the historic theater in Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Stanley Theatre, now also known as The Stanley Center for the Arts (SCA), is a regional arts service organization dedicated to building a better way of living through the arts in Oneida, Herkimer and Madison counties; and

WHEREAS, The historic Stanley Theatre opened on September 10, 1928, with a showing of the silent film "Ramona," starring Dolores del Rio; constructed in just 13 months, it was designed by famous architect Thomas Lamb, considered one of the foremost designers of theaters and cinemas in the 20th century, and is one of only three remaining Lamb theaters; and

WHEREAS, The Stanley Theatre was initially created as a movie house, and was purchased three days before its opening by Warner Brothers, which was eager to showcase its films on as many screens as possible; however, the theater quickly began to feature live events as well; and

WHEREAS, Notable early performers included legendary singers Marian

Anderson, Ezio Pinza, Lily Pons, Jeanette MacDonald, and Gene Autry; and WHEREAS, The Stanley Theatre was the sole theater to survive Utica's urban renewal efforts in the 1960s and 1970s; after a period of neglect, this majestic edifice was acquired by the Central New York Community Council, a local non-profit that not only saved the theater, but transformed it; and

WHEREAS, Steered by this committed organization, The Stanley Theatre has seen all of its mechanical, electrical, and safety systems upgraded; in addition, in 2006, it underwent a dramatic expansion project, which involved the construction of a much larger stage to accommodate large Broadway-style touring, a new two-story addition, modern dressing rooms, a digital marquee, and restoring of the interior decor; and

WHEREAS, This magnificent renovation also included the installation of the world's largest LED free-hanging chandelier, created and donated by a local manufacturer to match the grandeur of The Stanley Theatre's historic interior; and

WHEREAS, Today, the glorious Stanley Theatre is host to shows presented by the Broadway Theatre League of Utica, Munson Williams Proctor Great Artists Series, the Utica Symphony Orchestra, Mohawk Valley Ballet and Players of Utica, and others; legendary performers, including James Taylor, Peter Gabriel, B.B. King, Aretha Franklin, The Moody Blues and Jerry Seinfeld have also graced this celebrated theater's stage; and WHEREAS, The arts are the building blocks of civilization; they are central to human expression; they enlighten us and inspire the imagination; educational institutions, individuals, and organizations which further such worthy purposes richly merit the recognition and appreciation of this Legislative Body and the people of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, As The Stanley Theatre looks back with great pride to its beginnings, viewing, with just satisfaction, its successful evolution, it renews both its dedication to supporting artistic excellence, and its

commitment to the community it has served since 1928, expressing its appreciation to all those who have helped to sustain and enhance it over the years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 85th Anniversary of The Stanley Theatre; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Stanley Theatre.