

2013-K844

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Utica Zoo

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the continuing welfare of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched and reliably served by the purposeful endeavors of those organizations committed to the preservation of the natural world, the enrichment of knowledge of local and global wildlife, and the promotion of environmental citizenship; and

WHEREAS, It is also the belief of this Legislative Body that the quality and character of life of the citizens of New York State are greatly enriched by the availability of exceptional cultural, educational, and recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concerns and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Utica Zoo; this extraordinary milestone will be feted with a full calendar of centennial events and special exhibits, as well as a community Birthday Celebration to be held on Sunday, July 20, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Utica Zoo opened in 1914 and, over the last 100 years, it has grown from its small beginning of three fallow deer gifted by the Bronx Zoo to its present collection of more than 200 animals; and

WHEREAS, Located at One Utica Zoo Way in Utica's Roscoe-Conkling Park, the Utica Zoo is part of a recreational complex made possible by the donation of land by Thomas R. and Maria W. Proctor in 1909, who had a dream that a park could do as much for South Utica as Central Park was doing for New York City; of the 80 acres of land set aside for the zoo's use, 40 are currently developed; and

WHEREAS, The zoo property is owned by the City of Utica; the Utica Zoo

was operated by the city's Parks Department until 1964 when the Utica Zoological Society assumed full management in order to ensure the zoo's continued existence; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Utica Zoo is to foster public understanding and appreciation of wildlife species and their ecosystems through education, conservation and recreation; and

WHEREAS, The Utica Zoo's major exhibits include a primate collection, the Lion exhibit and the California Sea Lion exhibit; visitors can observe a red panda, an ostrich, a whooper crane, water fowl, a Chinese alligator, a Bactrian camel, a Nigerian dwarf goat, bald eagle, African Lion, snowy owl, Canadian Lynx and many others; there is also a children's zoo, play area, picnic area, amphitheater, and a gift shop and concession stand; and

WHEREAS, Open year-round, the Utica Zoo also offers a variety of educational and recreational programming; the Zoomobile visits schools, daycare centers, libraries, nursing homes and senior citizen centers, and other community organizations and events, while on-site programs such as Zoo Adventures Story Time, zoo camps, preschool programs, and home school classes are available; the Utica Zoo also provides exceptional educational resources for teachers; and

WHEREAS, Aply led by Executive Director Andria Heath, the Utica Zoo is a sparkling gem for the people of Utica and the Mohawk Valley; for 100 years it has been a destination of choice appreciated by residents and visitors who seek the cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the area and is a well-deserved source of pride; and

WHEREAS, It is the conviction of this Legislative Body that those organizations which enhance well-being and vitality in their community and demonstrate 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

commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Utica Zoo, and to commend all those, past and present, who have worked assiduously for its growth and success; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Utica Zoo.