

## 2013-J4141

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 40th Anniversary of WDKX radio station, Rochester, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality and character of life in this great Empire State is indelibly enriched by the faithful and untiring efforts of those individuals who have helped shape the history of broadcasting in their area, and by the institutions these exceptional persons have created; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of WDKX radio station, Rochester, New York; this joyous milestone will be feted at the WDKX 40th Anniversary Celebration, on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at the Kodak Center for the Performing Arts, Rochester; and

WHEREAS, 103.9 FM WDKX was founded by broadcasting legend and trailblazer Andrew Langston, and made its first broadcast sounds on April 6, 1974; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Langston was born in 1927 in the state of Georgia; his parents were sharecroppers who instilled in him the value of hard work, and this enterprising man always had odd jobs, from working on a tobacco farm and sweeping in a barbershop, to caddying at a golf course; after his graduation from high school as class valedictorian, he moved to New York City, working as a Wall Street bookkeeper while barbering on the side; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Langston attended City College, City University of New York, earning a bachelor of science in business administration in 1951, and an MBA in finance and economics from New York University in 1954; and

WHEREAS, He moved to Rochester, New York, in July 1960 with his wife,

Gloria and son, Andre, after receiving an offer from a local TV station for a position as a weatherman, a position denied him when station personnel saw the color of his skin; undaunted, he worked for four years as a salesman with National Clothing Store, where he set sales records and networked with influential businessmen; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Langston then became the first African American insurance agent for Prudential Life in the Rochester area; he excelled in this field as well, was named Rookie of the Year, and inducted as a Life and Qualifying member of the Million Dollar Round Table; and

WHEREAS, In 1968 Andrew Langston founded Monroe County Broadcasting Corporation to obtain the last frequency, 103.9, available on the FM band and sold shares to raise the needed capital; despite many hurdles, including competition with three other applicants for the frequency, and frequent trips to Washington, DC to meet with the FCC, WDKX was finally confirmed six years later; and

WHEREAS, WDKX was the first black-owned radio station in New York, and Monroe County Broadcasting Company was the first black-owned corporation to apply for a radio frequency before the FCC; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Langston, out of reverence for his heritage, and aware of the significance of his achievement, named WDKX in honor of African American heroes Frederick Douglas, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X; and

WHEREAS, WDKX quickly made its mark on the Rochester community, and impacted the whole of New York State; it featured not only African American artists, but news, interviews, and special segments of interest to the African American community, including interviews with the Reverend Jesse Jackson, and Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman to serve in the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, WDKX has been broadcasting on its 103.9 frequency every day, 24 hours a day for 40 years; it is the only locally and independently owned commercial radio station in Rochester; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Langston, who died in 2010 at the age of 83, has been widely recognized for his inspiring accomplishments; he was named Broadcasting Pioneer of the Decade by the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters, Broadcaster of the Year, and was inducted into the inaugural class of the New York State Broadcasters Hall of Fame, as well as the Rochester Radio Broadcasters Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Langston, throughout his career and purposeful life, served his community with integrity and devotion, continuously striving to meet the needs of his listeners through entertainment and enlightenment; the longevity and ongoing accomplishment of WDKX is a fitting tribute to the man and the community he loved; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of 103.9 FM, WDKX, and to wish this historic radio station continued success; and be it further

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