

## 2013-J4663

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Robert Tonner and Harris Safier upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the American Red Cross of the Mid-Hudson Valley at its 5th Annual Fire and Ice Gala on May 2, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are greatly enriched by the compassionate commitment of individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Robert Tonner and Harris Safier upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the American Red Cross of the Mid-Hudson Valley at its 5th Annual Fire and Ice Gala to be held at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie, New York, on Friday, May 2, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Together, Robert Tonner and Harris Safier have made significant contributions to numerous local charities and serve as strong community leaders and advocates in the Mid-Hudson Valley as part of their humanitarian efforts in the community; and

WHEREAS, As an entrepreneur, fashion designer, sculptor, doll artist and owner of the Tonner Doll Company, Inc., Effanbee Doll Company, Inc. and Wilde Imagination, Robert Tonner has had a successful career receiving special recognition for his work including the honor of having a permanent piece featured at the Louvre Museum in Paris; and

WHEREAS, Upon completion of a degree at Parsons School of Design, Robert Tonner began his career in the garment and fashion industry, and eventually launched his first doll company in 1991 with then business partner, Harris Safier, which has become an internationally renowned,

multi-division company; and

WHEREAS, Robert Tonner is highly engaged in the local community, serving on the board of the Kingston Hospital Foundation and as current President of the Kingston Uptown Business Association (KUBA), with a full belief in the benefits of giving back through charitable giving and engagement in countless charity fundraisers and events; and

WHEREAS, In addition to Robert Tonner's charitable efforts, he was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, As owner of top realty firm Westwood Metes & Bounds, Harris Safier has had a successful career in real estate and has given back to his community throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, After earning a bachelor's degree in Education and Psychology from the City University of New York and, subsequently, moving to the Mid-Hudson Valley, Harris Safier became a licensed real estate broker and founded Metes & Bounds Realty in 1978, becoming a top competitor in the field and acquiring the already successful Westwood Realty, creating Westwood Metes & Bounds Realty, Ltd, as it is known today where he serves as CEO and principal broker; and

WHEREAS, Harris Safier is currently the President of the Ulster County Board of Realtors and has served on a number of non-profit and community boards; and

WHEREAS, For more than three decades, Westwood Metes & Bounds Realty, led by Harris Safier, has sponsored and supported local charities across the Mid-Hudson Valley with Harris Safier as a noted standard-bearer for the local LGBTQ community; and

WHEREAS, Together, Robert Tonner and Harris Safier were honored with the Friends of the Center Award at the Annual Gala for the LGBTQ Center for their continued humanitarian works within the community; and

WHEREAS, As true assets to society, Robert Tonner and Harris Safier's distinguished records merit the recognition and respectful tribute of

this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Robert Tonner and Harris Safier upon the occasion of their designation as Fire & Ice honorees by the American Red Cross; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Robert Tonner and Harris Safier.