

## 2013-J4834

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Orange AHRC upon the occasion of celebrating its 5th Annual Dream Catcher's Gala, and recognizing its distinguished honorees

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 reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Orange AHRC upon the occasion of celebrating its 5th Annual Dream Catcher's Gala, and recognizing its distinguished honorees; and

WHEREAS, This year's Dream Catcher's Gala will be celebrated on Thursday, May 15, 2014, at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor, New York; and

WHEREAS, Orange County AHRC's 60th Anniversary, the theme for which is "Past, Present, and Future," will also be celebrated on this special evening; and

WHEREAS, Orange AHRC will be honoring those employees, members of the community, and people supported by the agency who have gained recognition through realizing their personal dreams and accomplishments; Elizabeth Avila-Brown is being honored as Dream Catcher; the Orange AHRC Artists are being recognized as Dreamers; and 2 Alices Coffee Lounge in Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York, is being recognized as a Dream Maker; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1954, Orange AHRC provides services and housing to children and adults with developmental disabilities including those with autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and intellectual and learning disorders; its mission is to assist people with disabilities in becoming respected and valued members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Headquartered in Newburgh, New York, Orange AHRC is Orange County's seventh-largest employer with multiple major sites in the region; it operates 19 group homes in the area spanning from the Delaware to the Hudson rivers; and

WHEREAS, In its work helping infants and children, this esteemed organization provides evaluation, early intervention, daycare, and preschool services; it offers special education from kindergarten to high school, as well as school to work transition assistance; and

WHEREAS, Orange AHRC is focused on promoting community membership for adults with disabilities in three major areas: employment, volunteerism, and group affiliation; through active engagement in public life, the men and women supported by the agency gain both respect and visibility; and

WHEREAS, In so effectively carrying out its mission, Orange AHRC has, over the past 60 years, demonstrated the value of helping people with disabilities fulfill their potential and become vital members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown 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 commend Orange AHRC upon the occasion of celebrating its 5th Annual Dream Catcher's Gala, and recognizing its distinguished honorees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Orange AHRC and the aforementioned honorees.