

## 2013-J5018

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring HARBORCENTER upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2014 Sponsor's Award by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce

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 enhanced by the concerned and dedicated efforts of business organizations and individuals that generously contribute to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor HARBORCENTER upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2014 Sponsor's Award by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce; this momentous occasion will be celebrated at the Chamber's Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon and Showcase, to be held on Friday, May 16, 2014, at Samuel's Grande Manor, Williamsville, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Amherst Chamber of Commerce is one of the 10 largest chambers in New York State due to its steadfast commitment to providing services members need to grow their business and prosperity; each May, the Chamber hosts a luncheon to honor seven outstanding small businesses in Western New York for their vast contributions to the region; and

WHEREAS, Set to open this fall, HARBORCENTER will be located on the site of the former Webster Block, across from First Niagara Center in downtown Buffalo, New York; on August 29, 2012, after an open bidding process, the Buffalo Sabres were awarded the right to purchase the 1.7 acre property from the city of Buffalo and begin development; and

WHEREAS, HARBORCENTER Development teamed with Mortenson Construction and officially broke ground in April of 2013; four months later, John Koelmel was named president of the project and has since unveiled plans

for a full-service Marriott Hotel, the Academy of Hockey, the two-story (716) Food and Sport restaurant, IMPACT Sports high performance off-ice training facility, and a one of a kind Tim Hortons Cafe and Bakeshop that pays tribute to the life and career of the hall of fame defenseman; and

WHEREAS, HARBORCENTER's two NHL size ice rinks will be home to The Buffalo Junior Sabres Youth Hockey Organization, Canisius College Hockey, Erie Community College Hockey, 20 newly formed youth hockey tournaments and many other events that will attract visitors from across North America; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its two year construction period, HARBORCENTER has been estimated to provide 1,600 construction jobs; once complete, the facility expects to create 350 employment opportunities and generate a substantial amount of revenue for New York State and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents a unique opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to HARBORCENTER; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when business organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor HARBORCENTER upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2014 Sponsor's Award by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to HARBORCENTER, Buffalo, New York.