

## 2013-K1220

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Douglas J. Hovey upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. Advocacy Award on May 19, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those individuals within the great Empire State who have made strong contributions to the disability community; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Douglas J. Hovey of Gardiner, New York, upon the occasion of his designation as the 10th recipient of the Annual Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. Advocacy Award presented at the 2014 Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day sponsored by the New York State Assembly Task Force on People with Disabilities and the New York State Assembly Committee on Mental Health on May 19, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. Advocacy Award was created in 2005 to honor the late Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. for his lifelong commitment to advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The tremendous efforts Douglas J. Hovey has made to improve and enhance the lives of New Yorkers with disabilities are worthy of this recognition; and

WHEREAS, Douglas J. Hovey has been the Executive Director of Independent Living, Inc., a values-driven disability advocacy and service organization employing 350 people and serving 8,000 annually, with offices in Newburgh, Middletown and Monticello, New York; and

WHEREAS, Douglas J. Hovey has long championed the cause of equal rights, access and opportunity for all persons; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Douglas J. Hovey founded Independent Home Care, Inc., an organization dedicated to assisting individuals with disabilities and seniors to live independently in the home of their choosing in

the community; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, with the support of his board of directors, Douglas J. Hovey founded IL Strategy Group, Inc., a strategic planning entity whose mission is to spearhead special initiatives which address issues of poverty, disability and the social determinants of individual well-being, including housing, opportunities for education, employment and social inclusion; and

WHEREAS, Douglas J. Hovey holds graduate degrees in Health Care Administration and Rehabilitation Administration from the New School for Social Research in New York and the University at San Francisco, respectively, and is professionally and personally familiar with the challenges faced by persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, With 26 years of leadership experience in the field of disability and rehabilitation services, Douglas J. Hovey currently serves on the board of directors of Inspire, the CP Center, headquartered in Goshen, New York, and the Resource Center for Independent Living in Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, Douglas J. Hovey continues to serve on the St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital Board of Trustees and the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS), subsequent to ending his term as Chairman of both boards in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Douglas J. Hovey is a member of Governor Cuomo's Medicaid Re-design Team Workgroup on Supportive Housing, the Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC) Employment Committee, and is a former Treasurer for the New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL); and

WHEREAS, Douglas J. Hovey is a Co-Chairman of the Orange County Long Term Care Council and is a member of Rotary International and the Newburgh Rotary Club where he served as President in 1999 and 2000; and

WHEREAS, Douglas J. Hovey is also a member of the International Medical Relief Fund (IMRF), an organization which provides medical

equipment and supplies to developing nations; and

WHEREAS, Douglas J. Hovey served on the board of directors for the Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center from 1995-2005, as Chairman of the New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC) in 2004 and 2005, and on the board of directors of Meals on Wheels of Greater Newburgh from 2004-2008; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, Douglas J. Hovey played a critical role in the organizational development of two independent living centers in Orange County, and served as an active member of the organizational development team leading to the creation of the New York Association on Independent Living, Inc. (NYAIL) and the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of New York State (CDPAANYS); and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Douglas J. Hovey was the innovative leader behind Reach One, a regional strategic collaboration among three organizations: Independent Living, Inc., PEOPLE, Inc. and the Mental Health Association of Rockland County; and

WHEREAS, Douglas J. Hovey is most notably recognized for innovative leadership and his work in shaping the disability services system through advocacy, using legislative, policy and regulation development processes to break down attitudinal and architectural barriers as well as facilitate the empowerment, inclusion and independence of persons with disabilities within his own geographic area and throughout the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, he was honored as a Pillar of the Community by the Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center, and Independent Living, Inc. was named Not-for-Profit Enterprise of the Year by the Orange County Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Douglas J. Hovey received the 2010 Everyday Hero Award from the Newburgh Kiwanis Club, and the 2009-2010 Service Above Self annual Rotary Award for Vocational Excellence from the ten Rotary Clubs of Region 6 and District 7210, in recognition of his outstanding dedication to community service and for encouraging the highest ethical standards

in business practices; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, Douglas J. Hovey was the recipient of the St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital Robert J. Rizzuto Volunteer Appreciation Award, and was also recognized by the Orange County Human Rights Commission for outstanding advocacy accomplishments; and

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WHEREAS, Douglas J. Hovey received the 2008 Inspire Foundation Shining Star Award for outstanding service to people with disabilities, and in 2007, was awarded the Cornerstone of the Community Award by Safe Harbors of the Hudson at their first Annual Gala celebration; and

WHEREAS, Douglas J. Hovey was the recipient of the 2006 Senate Achievement Award for the 39th Senate District, and the 1995 American Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, The initiatives Douglas J. Hovey strives to implement as a passionate advocate for persons with disabilities mirror the priorities that this Legislative Body has before us today, the New York State Assembly Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day 2014; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Douglas J. Hovey, a leader and an advocate, recognizing his labors and the promise of his future endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Douglas J. Hovey upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr. Advocacy Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Douglas J. Hovey.