

## 2015-J926

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Community Action Organization of Erie County

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 that are devoted 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 commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Community Action Organization of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson and the United States Congress enacted into law the Economic Opportunity Act (EOA) and the war on poverty was declared; and

WHEREAS, The Act established the Office of Economic Opportunity, which was part of the executive branch of government and reported directly to the President; within the next two years, more than 1,600 community action programs opened throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, The Community Action Organization (CAO) of Erie County was incorporated in May of 1965 under the laws of the State of New York, and this vital organization was then designated as the official anti-poverty agency for Erie County; and

WHEREAS, The CAO also launched its Head Start programs in 1965, and is the second largest such program in New York State, serving 2,188 children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Recognized as one of the nation's strongest and best community action agencies, CAO serves the community through its network of more than 50 locations throughout Erie county where it offers programs and

services in children and family, crisis and emergency, neighborhood, employment and training, housing and development, drug, and community technology; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the past 50 years, the Community Action Organization of Erie County has remained true to its mission to promote opportunities for low income individuals, families and communities to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency through advocacy, partnerships, access to services and low to moderate income housing development; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of its current Executive, L. Nathan Hare, the CAO of Erie County has worked to get existing institutions to expand their services to the underserved in Erie County, and has also worked with its partners in the New York State Department and the Federal Department of Health and Human Services to create and implement services to fill the gaps; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Community Action Organization of Erie County is in direct correlation to the efforts of its staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents an opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to the Community Action Organization of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when 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 commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Community Action Organization of Erie County; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to the Community Action Organization of Erie County.