

## 2015-J1027

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Matthew Avitabile upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2015 Community Leader of the Year Award by the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 individuals that are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Individuals that give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Matthew Avitabile upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2015 Community Leader of the Year Award by the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated at its Annual Business Dinner, at The Best Western Inn, Cobleskill, New York, on Friday, March 27, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce's annual business awards recognize business people in Schoharie County who have been successful in providing good products and services to clients and customers, and who have consistently treated their business associates in a fair and respectable manner; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Middleburgh Central High School, in Middleburgh, New York, Matthew Avitabile went on to attend both the State University of New York (SUNY) at Cobleskill and Oneonta; in 2010, he earned a Master's degree in History from the State University of New York at Albany; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Matthew Avitabile is employed as a History Professor at SUNY Oneonta; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Matthew Avitabile became involved with local politics; a year later, he was elected to serve as a member of the Middleburgh Village Board, a position he held until 2012; and

WHEREAS, On August 28, 2011, due to the wrath of Hurricane Irene, the Schoharie Creek overflowed its banks and flooded the Village of Middleburgh, causing significant damage; during the aftermath Matthew Avitabile coordinated a massive volunteer effort to help his neighbors rebuild; and

WHEREAS, Grateful for his dedicated service after the flood, the villagers of Middleburgh elected Matthew Avitabile to the esteemed position of Mayor in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Since Mayor Matthew Avitabile's election, the members of the Village Board, volunteers, and the business community have worked to recover Middleburgh; the community is now tied for best fiscal management in the County and has not raised taxes in three years; and

WHEREAS, Under Mayor Matthew Avitabile's able leadership, the Village of Middleburgh was just rated by the ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW as the third most desirable place to live among young people in the Capital District; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their profession and community, and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Matthew Avitabile upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2015 Community Leader of the Year Award by the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

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

mitted to Matthew Avitabile.