

2015-J1707

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Rabbi Joel Schwab upon the occasion of his retirement after 33 years of distinguished service as Spiritual Leader of Temple Sinai

WHEREAS, It is with great admiration and deepest respect that this Legislative Body is moved to pay tribute to an eminent gentleman of indomitable spirit and dedication, whose purposeful life and accomplishments will forever stand as an inspiration to others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Rabbi Joel Schwab upon the occasion of his retirement after 33 years of distinguished service as Spiritual Leader of Temple Sinai, to be celebrated at a party held in his honor, on Sunday, May 17, 2015; and

WHEREAS, In his leadership of Temple Sinai, Rabbi Joel Schwab brought an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Since 1982, Rabbi Joel Schwab has served as the Rabbi of Temple Sinai in Middletown, New York; he is the longest serving Rabbi in the 98-year history of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, Joel Schwab became an ordained Rabbi in 1976; prior to holding the position of Rabbi at the Temple Sinai, he served at congregations in both Cincinnati and Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, Under his faithful leadership at Temple Sinai, Rabbi Joel Schwab has concentrated on imparting the Jewish heritage to the members of the congregation; he is actively involved in the Hebrew School program, leading weekly assemblies, instructing high school students, and organizing the reading room; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his activities in the synagogue, Rabbi Joel

Schwab co-founded and served as the first Chair and a member of the Executive Committee of the Jewish Family Service of Orange County; he was also the first Rabbi to hold the title of President of the Middletown Interfaith Council; and

WHEREAS, Today, Rabbi Joel Schwab continues to serve as a Board member of the Jewish Family Service of Orange County, and participates on the Jewish Federation of Orange County Board of Directors, as well as holds the position of Chair of the Warming Station Initiative; and

WHEREAS, For over 20 years, Rabbi Joel Schwab has been a vital member of the Board of Directors of the only homeless shelter in Orange County, and currently serves as the Board President; in addition, he was appointed to the Human Rights Commission of the County of Orange; and

WHEREAS, As the Senior Rabbi in Orange County, Rabbi Joel Schwab is the convening Chair of the Klei Kodesh; he also serves as the Jewish Chaplain at the Mid-Hudson Psychiatric Center; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Rabbi Joel Schwab was the recipient of a degree of Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) by his alma mater, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York City; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Aviva, and their two sons, as well as five grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Joel Schwab lives his life with great dignity and genuine grace, always demonstrating a deep and continuing concern for others; rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which he has displayed throughout his life and throughout his leadership of the Temple Sinai for many years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor an eminent gentleman and unparalleled spiritual leader, Rabbi Joel Schwab, noting the significance of his unremitting dedication and sagacious leadership on behalf of the Temple Sinai, the Middletown communi-

ty, and the countless individuals who were sustained through his caring benevolence throughout his life; and be it further
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Joel Schwab.