

## 2015-J1737

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Natasha Pernicka upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Young Alumna in Public Administration and Policy Award by the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy

WHEREAS, Individuals who 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, Natasha Pernicka has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Natasha Pernicka upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Young Alumna in Public Administration and Policy Award by the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, to be celebrated at its 2015 Alumni Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 15, 2015, at the New York State Museum, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Each year, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy honors individuals such as Natasha Pernicka, for their outstanding contributions in the areas of political science, public administration, leadership, and continuing professional development; and

WHEREAS, Natasha Pernicka received a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University, and then went on to earn a Master's degree in Public Administration from Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy at the State University of New York at Albany; in addition, she is a graduate of the Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Tech Valley Program; and

WHEREAS, With over 14 years of experience in the non-profit sector in program development, fundraising, and strategic planning, Natasha Pern-

icka joined The Food Pantries in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Under Natasha Pernicka's luminous leadership, The Food Pantries' revenue and support has increased by 57 percent, and budgeted food funding by 54 percent; and

WHEREAS, Natasha Pernicka was also instrumental in starting a Capital District food pantry system assessment, and a Barriers to Access project to better coordinate services, identify gaps in the current system, and develop new ways to meet the needs of the hungry, as well as the development of new partnerships to provide more fresh produce through the food pantries; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable woman also serves as a member of several non-profit organization boards, including CARES, Inc., and the Albany and Rensselaer County FEMA Emergency Shelter; in addition, Natasha Pernicka is a reviewer for the New York State Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program grant process through the Regional Food Bank, as well as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Rockefeller College's Non-profit Community Engagement Series; and

WHEREAS, In her spare time, Natasha Pernicka enjoys spending time with her family, making art, gardening and consulting on non-profit projects; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Natasha Pernicka has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Natasha Pernicka has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

honor Natasha Pernicka upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Young Alumna in Public Administration and Policy Award by the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Natasha Pernicka.