

2015-J2063

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Commission on Economic Opportunity on May 21, 2015

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 who would devote themselves 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 Commission on Economic Opportunity, to be celebrated at its Community Action Luncheon on Thursday, May 21, 2015, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) was formed in 1965 as a private non-profit Community Action Agency; today there are over 1,100 Community Action Agencies across the country which were created after Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act in 1964; and

WHEREAS, CEO's first initiative was Head Start, a federal program to support school readiness in children from families in need; from there, CEO opened a food pantry, launched its WIC program, and moved into housing services; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 1976, the Commission on Economic Opportunity sponsored the Foster Grandparent program, which today serves nine counties and more than 100 seniors annually throughout eastern New York; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its five decades of service to the local community, CEO has continued to grow, both in the number of people it serves and the range of services it offers; this vital organization works with thousands of people throughout the Capital Region; with more than 25

programs to meet the needs of its community, CEO is currently one of the largest non-profits in the Capital Region, with over 250 employees; and WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, CEO creates partnerships and develops opportunities for social and economic growth and empowerment in individuals, families and communities through its five core areas:

Family and Education Support, Early Childhood Education, Employment and Financial Education, Healthy Homes, and Health and Wellness; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Commission on Economic Opportunity is in direct correlation to the efforts of its administration and 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, 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 celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Commission on Economic Opportunity on May 21, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Commission on Economic Opportunity, Troy, New York.