

## 2015-J3493

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Karen J. Nelson for 21 years of distinguished service as President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished citizens of this great Empire State who have devoted themselves to faithfully serving the best interests of their community and the needs of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Karen J. Nelson for 21 years of distinguished service as President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York; and

WHEREAS, Karen J. Nelson earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in College Park, and is a graduate of the Health Foundation of Western and Central New York's Health Leadership Fellows program; she also went on to obtain her Master's degree in Business Administration from Medaille College, Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, Since 2008, Karen J. Nelson has served as both President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York (PPCWNY), covering 17 counties and 10 health centers in Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Rochester and Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, Karen J. Nelson began her rewarding career with PPCWNY in 1994, serving as Finance Coordinator for four years; she was then promoted to the title of Director of Finance and Administration in 1998, and then Chief Operating Officer in 2005, a position she held until 2008; and

WHEREAS, Karen J. Nelson is also a graduate of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America's CEO's for Tomorrow program; and

WHEREAS, Under her luminous leadership, PPCWNY saw a broad expansion

of patient service, education outreach, fundraising capacity and advocacy efforts; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her invaluable service at Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York, Karen J. Nelson has served on various Boards of Directors including Family Planning Advocates of New York State and Planned Parenthood Advocates of New York State, and has held the position of Treasurer of the Planned Parenthood Affiliates Chief Executive Council; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this remarkable woman participated on the Boards of Directors for Cazenovia Recovery Systems, Inc. which provides residential services to adults at risk for homelessness and beginning substance abuse and addiction recovery, as well as offering support for mental health disorders, and Hopevale Charities, a school program which services abused, delinquent, troubled and dependent children and teens with education, and mental health services; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her illustrious career, Karen J. Nelson served Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York with intelligence and caring dedication, continuously striving to effectively fulfill the duties of her position; and

WHEREAS, Sincerely loved and greatly respected by all those with whom she worked, Karen J. Nelson will be remembered for her honesty, integrity, keen sense of duty and ability to show a unique grasp of human problems in her official acts; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Karen J. Nelson has displayed throughout her professional career; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Karen J. Nelson for 21 years of distinguished service as Presi-

dent and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York, and to wish her continued success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Karen J. Nelson.