

2015-J4145

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Lawrence J. Hanley upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 726, on February 27, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the efforts of those individuals who distinguish themselves in service to the cause of working men and women in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Lawrence J. Hanley upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 726, celebrated at their 100th Anniversary on Saturday, February 27, 2016, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Staten Island, New York; and

WHEREAS, As International President of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), Lawrence J. Hanley represents the men and women who help move the United States and Canada; he was elected to his present position on September 30, 2010, at ATU's 56th International Convention in Orlando, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his appointment as International President, Lawrence J. Hanley was selected to the position of President of Local 726 in January of 1987, the youngest individual to take office in his Local's history; he was re-elected to five consecutive terms, serving until 2002; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure, Lawrence J. Hanley was faced with the threat of complete privatization of express bus work; this monumental crisis led to devising creative forms of protest; and

WHEREAS, Other milestones during Lawrence J. Hanley's presidency included challenging the Metropolitan Transit Authority in New York City

through internal member organization and by organizing the riders of buses; the Local worked every day in the community to convince both members and passengers that their interests were one and the same; and WHEREAS, Under Lawrence J. Hanley's luminous leadership, the express bus fare was reduced by a dollar, there was a 125% increase in ridership, and 500 more jobs were added in the Local; the Local's investment of funds on the campaign generated higher ATU salaries and an increase in capital spending on transit; and

WHEREAS, An ATU Local 726 employee for 23 years, Lawrence J. Hanley previously served as a member of the Transport Workers Union (TWU); he started by driving a bus at the age of 21 and helped organize efforts to get police protection on buses in New York City; and

WHEREAS, In November of 1979, Lawrence J. Hanley transferred to Staten Island and became a member of the ATU Local 726; by April 1980, he was involved in his first strike and walked picket lines every day and night for 11 days; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence J. Hanley was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Local in 1984; shortly after his election, a strike broke out in Austin, Minnesota, at the George Hormel Company, and he joined the New York group which traveled there; and

WHEREAS, Many thousands of union members from across America traveled to Austin, Minnesota, where Lawrence J. Hanley also walked the line in support of the striking workers; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence J. Hanley served as Secretary/Treasurer until January of 1987; in 2002, he was asked by International President Jim LaSala to join the staff of the International ATU as Vice President serving the largest number of locals; and

WHEREAS, As difficult as it was to leave Local 726, Lawrence J. Hanley took the job and immediately went to work bargaining contracts, often seven days a week throughout the East Coast; and

WHEREAS, In this increasingly responsible position, Lawrence J. Hanley

negotiated the national Greyhound contract for Local 1700 which resulted in his working with ATU members in many states; he served in this capacity until his election as International President in September of 2010;

and

WHEREAS, Throughout his distinguished career, Lawrence J. Hanley served the ATU Local 726 with intelligence and caring dedication, continuously striving to effectively fulfill the duties of his position;

and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as President, Lawrence J. Hanley served with loyalty, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure, Lawrence J. Hanley earned the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those extraordinary individuals who have made contributions to the success and progress of society in the course of their life's work; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for Lawrence J. Hanley, and to wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Lawrence J. Hanley upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 726, on February 27, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lawrence J. Hanley.