

2015-J4297

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Kathleen O'Keefe-Burke upon the occasion of her selection as Deputy Marshal of the Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 20, 2016

WHEREAS, St. Patrick's Day is a time for people of all nationalities and generations to assemble and celebrate the rich culture and heritage of the Irish people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, A St. Patrick's Day parade reflects and records the ongoing history of the United States and Ireland, and provides opportunity for people of all generations to assemble in ethnic pride and pageantry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Kathleen O'Keefe-Burke upon the occasion of her selection as Deputy Marshal of the Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 20, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen O'Keefe-Burke's grandfather left Ardnageeha, County Cork, Ireland to pursue his dreams of a better life; in 1947, he wed Alice Donovan, and they happily settled in Staten Island and started a beautiful life together based in the Catholic faith; and

WHEREAS, Born in Staten Island, New York, Kathleen O'Keefe attended Blessed Sacrament School and Notre Dame Academy; after graduating, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Master's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from Wagner College; today, she works in midtown as an Accounting Manager for Starr Companies; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, Kathleen O'Keefe began playing bagpipes with Richmond County Pipes and Drums (RCPD); since then she has gone on to mentor many pipers in the area, march in all the local parades and attend hundreds of fundraisers; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen O'Keefe serves on RCPD's Executive Board as both Treasurer and Band Manager; after meeting her husband, she joined him in the Breezy Point Pipe Band in 2005; and

WHEREAS, The couple moved to Brooklyn, and in 2009, they were married; she surprised her family and friends by leading over 54 pipers and drummers into her wedding reception; and

WHEREAS, Some of Kathleen O'Keefe-Burke's most memorable moments have been in a kilt; she remembers the first time she marched past St.

Patrick's Cathedral, received the Army Civilian Patriot Award, and opened for several musical groups such as Black 47, Wolfetones, Dublin City Ramblers, Andy Cooney, Shillelagh Law and Ronan Tynan; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Kathleen O'Keefe-Burke played the pipes on the field at Citi Field Stadium, and at Brooklyn Cyclones and Staten Island Yankees games; she has had the distinct honor of playing for Cardinal Dolan, the Taoiseach of Ireland and many Irish government officials; and

WHEREAS, Proud of her Irish heritage, Kathleen O'Keefe-Burke was one of the first women voted into the St. Patrick's Society of Brooklyn Executive Board, which has been around since 1850, and was traditionally a men-only club; she also holds the position of band coordinator for the Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and serves as a Captain for the Staten Ireland Fair; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Kathleen O'Keefe-Burke is a member of several Irish organizations including the LAOH, NYPD Emerald Society, St. Columcille Cultural Center, Irish Business Organization (IBO), and the Irish American Building Society (IABS); and

WHEREAS, Kathleen O'Keefe-Burke serves as a liaison for the Consulate General of Ireland to many groups and has had the honor of working

directly with the Consulate team putting together a calendar of 1916-2016 Centennial events in the United States; and

WHEREAS, A woman of purpose and many interests, Kathleen O'Keefe-Burke is a founding member of the Bay Ridge Beached Whales Polar Plunge Team

and annually raises money for the New York Special Olympics; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout has been her loving husband Kenny, who feels privileged to be a part of her life and rejoices in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, intellect and commitment as that demonstrated by over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, A fitting choice for Deputy Marshal of the Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade, Kathleen O'Keefe-Burke embodies the spirit and the cherished ideals and values of Irish-Americans of this great State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Kathleen O'Keefe-Burke upon the occasion of her selection as Deputy Marshal of the Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 20, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Deputy Marshal Kathleen O'Keefe-Burke.