

2015-J4409

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Town of Babylon upon the occasion of hosting its 27th Annual Women's History Month Celebration, and paying tribute to its honorees

WHEREAS, The State of New York is home to countless women who have contributed to the advancement of our culture through both their traditional and non-traditional roles in society; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Town of Babylon upon the occasion of hosting its 27th Annual Women's History Month Celebration on Saturday, March 19, 2016, at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School, Copiague, New York; and

WHEREAS, The 2016 Women's History Month honorees: Andrea De Loney, Phoenix Award; Coleen Farrell, Gertrude Van Kirk Woman in Government Award; Sharon Fattoruso, Community Service Award; Traci Fonville, Commissioner's Recognition Award; Florence Hechtel, Special Recognition Award; Afreen Rizwan, Government Appreciation Award; Naima Robinson, Phoenix Award, and Carrie Vasiluth, Maxine S. Postal Humanitarian Award; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Andrea De Loney graduated Cum Laude from Wagner College, New York, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a double concentration in Marketing and Management; today, she is a Human Resources professional who possesses experience in both the corporate and non-profit sector; specializing in creative recruiting strategies, program development and implementation, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to the mission of "empowering communities and changing lives," Andrea De Loney has been an active member of the Urban League of Long Island Young Professionals since December of 2010, hold-

ing several leadership roles within the organization, including Community Outreach Co-Chair, Vice President and President; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Coleen Farrell has become very active with local organizations including Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Christian Mothers, and the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion Post in Lindenhurst; as a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Christian Mothers, she helped to support both the church and the school; and

WHEREAS, With the Lindenhurst American Legion, Coleen Farrell has spent countless hours volunteering, assisting the American Legion with fundraising activities, soliciting donations, organizing, setting up and cooking for the Wounded Warrior Project event, as well as the Hope of Warriors annual dinner dance and run; and

WHEREAS, A true leader, Sharon Fattoruso serves as President of the Copiague Chamber of Commerce, under her luminous leadership, the Copiague Chamber of Commerce has established two business scholarships, which are presented annually at the Copiague High School awards night; and

WHEREAS, Sharon Fattoruso also serves as President and Co-founder of the Copiague Community Cares Coalition which was started to promote awareness, aimed at the prevention of underage drinking and substance abuse in our youth and adults; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, Traci A. Fonville began her career with the Town of Babylon as the Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Human Services; after nine months, she was promoted to Deputy Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Traci A. Fonville assists with overseeing five Senior Citizens Centers, Drug and Alcohol Services, Senior Transportation, Women's Services, and the Food Pantry; in addition, she is the editor and creative designer of the AROUND TOWN SENIOR MAGAZINE; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Traci A. Fonville coordinates three yearly community events including the Black History Month, Women's History

Month and Hispanic Heritage Month Programs, as well as creates flyers, brochures and programs for all the department's activities; she has also organized quarterly Women's Empowerment Forums affording women business owners the opportunity to network and inspire others to start their own businesses; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Jamaica, Florence Hechtel emigrated to the United States in 1961, and pursued a career in the arts; her extensive repertoire, which spans songs in 10 different languages, includes opera, oratorio and vocal chamber music; she has made numerous triumphal solo appearances at Lincoln Center, New York and in other major cities; and

WHEREAS, For 18 years, Florence Hechtel held the position of voice teacher at The Stony Brook School, and serves as an Applied Music Professor of Voice at Suffolk County Community College, Selden, New York; for almost five decades, she has taught private voice lessons, and mentored some of today's most promising artists; and

WHEREAS, In March of 2008, Afreen Rizwan began her legal career with the Town of Babylon, when she was appointed an Assistant Town Attorney; four years later, she was appointed as the Chief Deputy Town Attorney; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Afreen Rizwan represents the Town in various legal matters including property transactions, contracts, and advising various other Town Departments such as the Office of the Supervisor and Planning; she also serves as counsel to the Zoning Board of Appeals, a role she thoroughly enjoys as it incorporates not only her legal mind but also aspects of planning and development, design and architecture; and

WHEREAS, A current Doctoral student at Long Island University CW Post, Naima Robinson's formal doctoral research is on the effects of parental incarceration on student achievement; in her work with students she teaches that education is a continuous process of unlearning, learning, relearning, reflection, and evaluation; and

WHEREAS, With her knowledge in History and Women's Studies and a

primary interest in issues of race, class, and gender equality in education, Naima Robinson helps students to discover and evaluate the world around them and engage critically in active civil responsibility to make this world a better place; and

WHEREAS, Carrie Vasiluth has devoted her entire adult life to serving

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those most in need; throughout her life, she has gained knowledge, hope and inspiration from the many unsung heroes who crossed her path; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, Carrie Vasiluth began a long career with

Nassau/Suffolk Law Services, a not-for-profit agency providing free legal services in civil matters to low income and disabled Long Island residents; as a staff attorney, she represents clients in matters involving public benefits, housing, child custody and support, guardianships, orders of protection, health care, foreclosure and other debtor/creditor matters; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Town of Babylon upon the occasion of hosting its 27th Annual

Women's History Month Celebration, and paying tribute to its honorees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Town of Babylon's Department of Human Services, and to the aforementioned honorees.