

## 2015-J4649

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) upon the occasion of hosting its 6th Annual RecruitNY Weekend from April 23-24, 2016

WHEREAS, The firefighters of New York State are renowned throughout the Nation; their reputation is synonymous with excellence in the arduous field of fire protection and prevention; and

WHEREAS, Since the early days of "teapot steamers," the volunteer firefighter has been the cornerstone of our great Nation's efforts to spare us from the ravages of fire; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) upon the occasion of hosting its 6th Annual RecruitNY Weekend from April 23-24, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Five years ago, RecruitNY was created by FASNY to keep the New York State volunteer fire service alive; after years of decline, this annual event has helped add more than 20,000 to the ranks of fire departments across the state of New York; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1980s, approximately 120,000 volunteer firefighters served their New York communities; a decade later, that number drastically dropped to around 80,000 firefighters, making it difficult for fire departments to adequately respond to fires and other life-threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, FASNY applied for, and received, a Federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant to conduct recruitment and retention activities; and

WHEREAS, One year later, FASNY developed and then held its first RecruitNY Weekend where volunteer fire departments were encouraged to open its doors to the public and solicit new members as well as strengthen the relationship between the volunteer fire department and

the community it protects; and

WHEREAS, Over the past five years, the Annual RecruitNY Weekend has become a vital aspect of FASNY's recruitment and retention activities with an increasing number of departments participating each year; with the help of local media, members of the fire departments are able to broadcast the importance of local volunteer departments and the continuous need for new firefighters; and

WHEREAS, The brave firefighters of New York are prepared to risk their lives every day to help save the lives of others and to protect homes and property from the destruction caused by fire; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer firefighters and fire departments not only provide the critical service of fire protection but also engage in other activities of great benefit and importance to the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, It takes a special dedication, a strong desire to help others and a tireless sense of community to forsake precious time with family and friends to respond to the signal that a neighbor is in need; New York firefighters heroically perform, above and beyond the call of duty, those responsibilities which define the task of fire protection; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that we should give special recognition to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities, and acknowledge publicly the heroic good works performed by the volunteer fire departments of this great Empire State, their officers and auxiliaries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) upon the occasion of hosting its 6th Annual RecruitNY Weekend from April 23-24, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY).