

## 2015-J4680

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Simona Chazen upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Rockland Community Foundation on March 31, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Simona Chazen upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Rockland Community Foundation to be celebrated at its 2016 Signature Gala on Thursday, March 31, 2016, at the Hudson Water Club, Haverstraw Marina, West Haverstraw, New York; and

WHEREAS, Founded by Simona Chazen, the Rockland Community Foundation is a non-profit corporation governed by a local Board of Directors and an Advisory Board comprised of community leaders; the Foundation is a unifying element in its community which strives to serve donors, non-profit organizations and the community as a whole by encouraging corporate leaders, educators, youth, parents, non-profits, elected officials and the faith community to work toward the common objective of increasing charitable giving; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, the Rockland Community Foundation was comprised of 55 private, corporate, public and foundation funds which generously disbursed a large sum through more than 75 grants and scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Born in Newark, New Jersey, Simona Chazen worked as a Cub reporter for the NEWARK STAR LEDGER; she studied both journalism and philosophy at the University of Wisconsin where she met her future

husband, Jerry, at a jazz record session; and

WHEREAS, After the couple married, they happily raised three children in several cities before moving to Rockland County, New York; and

WHEREAS, Soon thereafter, Simona Chazen began to volunteer her time and energy at Volunteer Counseling Services (VCS), an exciting new Social Service agency; inspired by her work, she went on to earn her Master's degree in Social Work at Fordham University, and subsequently, became the first Associate Executive Director of VCS, where she participated in creating some of their cutting edge programs; and

WHEREAS, Today, Simona Chazen is still an active supporter of VCS where she supervises casework and serves on the Board of Directors; additionally, she has served as a psychotherapist in Rockland County for many years; and

WHEREAS, A proud supporter of the arts, Simona Chazen is a vital member of the Board of Directors of the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City and the Council of the Art Museum at the University of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to her community, Simona Chazen is a strong supporter of the JCC of Rockland County, the Jewish Federation and many other charitable and cultural organizations; in addition to her role as a founding member of VCS and the Rockland Community Foundation, she helped establish the Center for Safety & Change and the soon to be opened Rockland Pride Center; and

WHEREAS, When this remarkable woman is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family, collecting art, listening to jazz and attending the opera; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, Jerry, her three children, Kathy, Louise, and David, as well as her seven grandchildren,

all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individ-

ual for the benefit of others which Simona Chazen has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Simona Chazen upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Rockland Community Foundation on March 31, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Simona Chazen.