

2015-J6476

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Brygen Finkleman upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the LGBT Community Advocacy Award by In Our Own Voices, Inc. on July 17, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 honor Brygen Finkleman upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the LGBT Community Advocacy Award by In Our Own Voices, Inc., to be celebrated at its Annual Jazz in July Event on Sunday, July 17, 2016, at the State Room, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, In Our Own Voices is an autonomous organization dedicated to addressing the many needs and ensuring the physical, mental, spiritual, political, cultural, and economic survival and growth of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People of Color (LGBT POC) community in the Capital Region of Upstate New York; and

WHEREAS, The LGBT Community Advocacy Award is given to an individual or organization that is committed to creating change in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People of Color communities; and

WHEREAS, Brygen Finkleman received her Juris Doctor degree in 1985, from the University of Texas School of Law after attending the University of Texas School of Law and Cornell Law School; she was admitted to practice in New York State in 1986; and

WHEREAS, After practicing law in Binghamton, New York with the firm of Aswad & Ingraham for five years, Brygen Finkleman took a hiatus from

practice to raise her children; and

WHEREAS, Today, Brygen Finkleman runs a solo practice in Slingerlands, New York, where she is focused on name changes for transgender individuals throughout New York State; she also helps transgender individuals navigate name and gender corrections on their identity documents; and

WHEREAS, To date, Brygen Finkleman has filed more than 80 petitions for transgender individuals in 24 counties; because many transgender individuals lose their jobs after transitioning, the majority of her clients qualify for legal aid, and she graciously does the legal work pro bono; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Brygen Finkleman is the editor of "Child Abuse: A Multidisciplinary Survey", a ten volume multidisciplinary survey of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to her community, Brygen Finkleman is a member of Affirming Transgender Rights (ATR), a transgender advocacy group she co-founded that works for transgender equality through outreach, education, and political activism; the group was instrumental in the unanimous passage of an anti-discrimination law that protects transgender people in Albany County on June 10, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Brygen Finkleman upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the LGBT Community Advocacy Award by In Our Own Voices, Inc., and to wish this exemplary woman continued success in her vital work on behalf of the community she serves; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to honoring Brygen Finkleman.