

2019-J19

Senate Resolution No. 19

BY: Senator BRESLIN

COMMEMORATING the 60th Anniversary of the Center Square Association on October 5, 2018

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 commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Center Square Association, to be celebrated at a Gala on Friday, October 5, 2018, at the Renaissance Albany Hotel Ballroom in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious event pays tribute to those individuals who have made a difference in the lives of the people who live in the historic Center Square area of Albany by making significant contributions to their community through their time, actions and dedication; and

WHEREAS, The oldest neighborhood association in Albany, the Center Square Association (CSA) was founded in 1958 by a group of young property owners who wanted a voice in the future of their neighborhood

which consisted of historic homes, many of which were built in the mid-to-late 1800s; and

WHEREAS, The Center Square Neighborhood includes Lark Street from Jay Street to Spring Street; Spring Street to Dove Street; south on Dove Street to State Street; east on State Street to South Swan Street; south on South Swan Street to Jay Street; west on Jay Street to Lark Street; north on Lark Street to Spring Street, plus one block on Lancaster Street from Lark Street to, but not including, Willett Street; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the last six decades, the CSA has undertaken numerous projects; some of its notable accomplishments include: initiating the founding of Historic Albany Foundation, the Council of Albany Neighborhoods (CANA), the Historic Resources Commission, and Hudson/Park Neighborhood Association; forming the Center Square/Hudson Park Historic District, now on the National Register of Historic Places; creating Hudson Jay Park in concert with Hudson/Park Neighborhood Association, the city, and the state; beginning the first formalized neighborhood beautification program, and starting the Annual Hidden City House and Garden Tour; and

WHEREAS, In addition, CSA challenged the demolition of historically significant buildings, a policy the association continues to uphold; fought efforts to alter the residential neighborhood by expanding commercial uses; pursued vigorous code enforcement; filed countless lawsuits over six decades in order to preserve the historic character of Center Square; and stopped the city and state plan to run a mid-town arterial highway through Hudson and Jay streets into a tunnel under

Washington Park, which would have destroyed 351 buildings and displaced 741 families; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous leadership of President Jackie Ring, the CSA remains committed to promoting the quality of residential living and preserving its historic 19th century housing stock so that future generations may appreciate this unique downtown Albany neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those organizations which 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 commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Center Square Association on October 5, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jackie Ring, President, Center Square Association.