

2013-J181

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Heart of the City Neighborhoods for its outstanding service to the community

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 Heart of the City Neighborhoods for its outstanding service to the community; and

WHEREAS, Heart of the City Neighborhoods is a not-for-profit Community Development Corporation that provides quality, affordable housing in Buffalo's Lower West Side; and

WHEREAS, The mission of Heart of the City Neighborhoods is to create, facilitate, and support housing and neighborhood development in the Lower West Side of the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, Heart of the City Neighborhoods creates programs to improve the quality of residential housing, assist private developers, neighborhood leaders, the City of Buffalo, and other not-for-profit organizations to develop projects to improve neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Acting in conjunction with residents, neighborhood organizations, local leaders, financial institutions, and real estate professionals, Heart of the City Neighborhoods works diligently to stabilize and create mixed income neighborhoods where people of all incomes will have a better quality of life and take pride in their property, street, and community; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, the Office of the City of Buffalo Strategic Planning noted Heart of the City Neighborhoods' service area in the Lower West Side as having 310 vacant properties, 257 residential properties, 52 commercial properties, and 1 urban renewal/slum clearance; and

WHEREAS, Heart of the City Neighborhoods has executed minor home repairs on 44 homes, major rehabilitation on 7 homes (13 units), and

major rehabilitation on 1 six-unit rental property; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Heart of the City Neighborhoods has created a Lower West Side Map and Guide to highlight this unique neighborhood comprised of public spaces, local businesses, cultural amenities, and vibrant residential communities; and

WHEREAS, Heart of the City Neighborhoods offers referrals to resources for homeowners, first-time homebuyers, and tenants; it also serves as Ellicott District Liaison at housing court hearings to assist neighbors who have properties they are no longer able to care for in an effort to build a stronger community; and

WHEREAS, Heart of the City Neighborhoods utilizes a block-by-block approach to fighting blight and abandoned homes within its service area and has planted 299 trees all over the Lower West Side, including along the Hudson Street and Whitney Place target areas, as part of its neighborhood beautification program; and

WHEREAS, Everything Heart of the City Neighborhoods does is with a singular goal: to improve housing opportunities and quality of life within its service area, and by extension, throughout the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations 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 honor Heart of the City Neighborhoods for its outstanding service to the community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Stephanie Simeon, Executive Director, Heart of the City Neighborhoods.