

2013-J270

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Janne Siren upon the occasion of his appointment as the Executive Director of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational and recreational institutions; and

WHEREAS, It is also the sense of this Legislative Body that institutions and individuals that give positive definition to the profile and disposition of the communities of the State of New York profoundly strengthen our society with their commitment; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Janne Siren upon the occasion of his appointment as the Executive Director of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Albright-Knox Art Gallery was founded in Buffalo in 1862; it possesses a 150-year record of collecting, conserving, and exhibiting the art of its time and has one of the world's finest collections of contemporary and modern art; and

WHEREAS, Internationally recognized as one of the leading museums in the United States, the Albright-Knox Art Gallery continues to add cutting-edge works to its collections and annually presents a program comprised of exceptional exhibitions, publications, and collaborations; in the Buffalo Niagara region, the museum is a cultural beacon and magnet for cultural tourism; and

WHEREAS, The parent organization of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery is the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, founded in 1862; it is one of the oldest public arts institutions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In January 2013, the Board of Directors of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York, announced its unanimous selection of Dr. Janne Siren as the eleventh Executive Director of the Gallery; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Janne Siren is currently director of Finland's Helsinki Art Museum, one of the largest cultural institutions in the Nordic region; he is the first director from the Nordic region to take the helm of a major American art museum; and

WHEREAS, An impressive scholar and visionary administrator who is able to embrace and connect local, national, and global stages in a relevant and viable way, Dr. Janne Siren brings extensive experience and knowledge to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in all areas of programming and also a passion for the Gallery's growth and development; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Janne Siren is an extraordinary leader, who shares the vision for the active role of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in the growth and vitality of the community; he has a wealth of experience in promoting economic development and growth through cultural tourism, which is a high priority for the Gallery and the Buffalo Niagara region; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Janne Siren earned his undergraduate degree in art history from the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts; he holds master's and doctoral degrees from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University; and

WHEREAS, Believing passionately that the arts and the twenty-first-century museum can be active participants in a vibrant community and its robust growth, Dr. Janne Siren will assume his position as Executive

Director of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in late spring or early summer; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when an individual of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention, he should be 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 Dr. Janne Siren upon the occasion of his appointment as the Executive Director of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Janne Siren.