

2009-J2576

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring New York State Trooper Stephen M. Austin and the other police officers involved in the apprehension of two escaped convicted murderers from Arkansas

WHEREAS, Within every community of the State of New York there are certain individuals who, by virtue of their commitment and dedication, command the respect and admiration of their community for their exemplary contributions and service on behalf of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished officers and citizens who would devote themselves to public service, demonstrating great courage and diligence in providing for the care and welfare of the citizens of their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor New York State Trooper Stephen M. Austin and the other police officers involved in the apprehension of two escaped convicted murderers from Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, On June 2, 2009, New York State Trooper Stephen M. Austin was patrolling Interstate 86 in Allegany County when he observed a vehicle exit the highway without using a turn signal and the driver appear to be confused as to which way to turn at the bottom of the ramp; and

WHEREAS, New York State Trooper Stephen M. Austin then proceeded to the next exit on Interstate 86 to monitor traffic, where he saw the same vehicle pass by and effected a traffic stop east of exit 31; as he approached the driver's side of the vehicle, it fled the scene; and

WHEREAS, Acting quickly, New York State Trooper Stephen M. Austin initiated pursuit of the vehicle and notified the Amity New York State Police station, who determined that the vehicle was displaying switched Missouri license plates; and

WHEREAS, During this time, the pursuit was monitored by Sergeant Gregory Jankowiak, Sergeant S/C Brian Kazmierczak and Lieutenant Wayne Walker at the New York State Police station at Amity, who were also coordinating efforts with other New York State Police patrols and the

Hornell Police Department; and

WHEREAS, After New York State Trooper Jeffrey Giardini joined the chase as the secondary unit, the vehicle got off of Interstate 86 at Exit 33 and the pursuit continued on County Route 2 to State Route 21; and

WHEREAS, In the Town of Hornellsville, New York State Trooper David Bastine was traveling slowly in the opposite direction with his emergency lights activated when the fleeing vehicle swerved towards him, causing him to take evasive action to avoid a collision; and

WHEREAS, A short time later, the pursuit was terminated by Lieutenant Wayne Walker when the vehicles reached the City of Hornell line due to the speed of the vehicles in a congested area; and

WHEREAS, As New York State Troopers Stephen M. Austin, Jeffrey Giardini and Darren Fanton, along with Investigator George Grbic and New York State Troopers Peter Peters and David Bastine from the Bath State Police station at Bath, patrolled in the direction of the suspect vehicle's travel, a Hornell Police Department officer observed two subjects fleeing from the vehicle on Maple Street and Cameron Street; and

WHEREAS, All of the patrols converged upon the area to search for the subjects, who were located in a yard on Wesley Avenue by Hornell Police Officers Gleason and Sergeant Giglio and taken into custody without incident, with the assistance of New York State Troopers, Darren Fanton, Peter Peters, David Bastine and Investigator George Grbic; and

WHEREAS, The pursuit and subsequent capture lasted 15 minutes and covered approximately 18 miles with maximum speeds approaching 90 MPH; the suspects were later identified as Jeffrey Grinder and Calvin Adams, escaped convicted murderers from Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those dedicated public servants who unselfishly devote their lives to the preservation of order and the protection of others are worthy and due full praise for their commitment and noble endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor New York State Trooper Stephen M. Austin and the other police officers involved in the apprehension of two escaped convicted murderers from Arkansas; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to New York State Trooper Stephen M. Austin, the New York State

Police Amity and Bath stations and the Hornell Police Department.