

2009-K507

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Executive Director Gloria Richardson Griffin upon the occasion of her retirement after 40 years of distinguished service to the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble 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 Executive Director Gloria Richardson Griffin upon the occasion of her retirement after 40 years of distinguished service to the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, to be celebrated on Friday, June 12, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Born in Auburn, New York, to the late Fred E. and Elizabeth Dale Richardson, Gloria Griffin was educated in the Auburn public school system; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, Gloria Griffin began working for the Cayuga County Action Program (CCAP), now the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency as an outreach worker; in 1971, she became the Agency's program supervisor, and in 1973, she was promoted to Administrative Assistant; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Griffin has served as Executive Director since 1975, and while the issues the agency deals with have changed, the mission remains the same -- to help people obtain and sustain self-sufficiency and self-dignity; and

WHEREAS, In the beginning of Gloria Griffin's tenure there were fewer single-parent families, and the focus was more on nutrition than on domestic violence and teen pregnancy; to deal with feeding the poor, a community garden where people could care for their own vegetables provided food for the agency's customers; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, Gloria Griffin founded Cayuga County's Battered

Women's Shelter in response to the escalating issues of family stress and violence; programs were also conducted to educate the public about the criminality of domestic violence and to raise the veil of secrecy from the problem; and

WHEREAS, The name change of CCAP to Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency better identified the service delivery area of the anti-poverty agency; the name change was an important step, so that the agency could be officially recognized in both counties in which it serves; and

WHEREAS, A true citizen of Cayuga County, Gloria Griffin has always believed in giving back to the community she loves so much; she is a member of numerous organizations, some of which include: Executive Committee of NAACP; Cayuga-Cortland Private Industrial Council; BOCES Occupational and Educational Advisory Committee; Booker T. Washington Board of Directors; St. Joseph Cemetery Board of Directors; the Big Sisters of Auburn; and the Cayuga County Social Services Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Griffin is the recipient of many awards and certificates of recognition which include: the State of New York's Community Action Lifetime Achievement Award; the Award for Public Service; the Outstanding Citizenship Award, given by the NAACP; and a recognition award by the American Diabetes Association, to mention a few; and

WHEREAS, A member of St. Mary's Church, Gloria Griffin has served as an Ecumenical Minister, and has served on numerous committees; she is a supporter of race relations, and the rights of economically deprived individuals; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her children, Robin, Stacy, and Phredi, as well as her grandchildren, Audric, Robyn, Kayla, and Samuel,

all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Executive Director Gloria Richardson Griffin upon the occasion of

her retirement after 40 years of distinguished service to the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gloria Richardson Griffin.