

## 2009-J3529

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Robert Geraci upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of dedicated service to the Onondaga County Parks Department

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those illustrious individuals of distinguished purpose whose lives have been committed to the pursuit of excellence and who bring great pride to the citizens of our great State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend Robert Geraci upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of dedicated service as Onondaga County Commissioner of Parks; and

WHEREAS, Robert Geraci, a native of Brooklyn, New York, received degrees from SUNY ESF (1973) and Syracuse University Maxwell School of Management (1999); and

WHEREAS, Prior to joining the Onondaga County Parks Department, he served in environmental education roles with New York City and Atlanta Parks; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, Robert Geraci began his long and successful tenure with the Onondaga County Parks Department by serving as Director of Beaver Lake Nature Center, where he initiated many new programs and the Golden Harvest Festival; and

WHEREAS, Robert Geraci became Director of Recreation & Public Programs in 1983; in this capacity, he oversaw the opening of the New Breed of Zoo and Sainte Marie among the Iroquois, and introduced new programs that have become staples of the community such as Parkway Sundays and Lights on the Lake; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, he began his 14-year tenure as Onondaga County Commissioner of Parks, a role that saw him facilitate Parks for Tomorrow

capital projects, which rejuvenated and enhanced the county parks system; and

WHEREAS, He initiated the opening of new venues and related programs including Wegmans Good Dog Park, the Onondaga Lake Skate Park, Jamesville Beach disc golf course, and "Get Moving, CNY" exercise program; and

WHEREAS, He supported sports and recreation by being instrumental in the opening of a new baseball stadium and initiated angling related endeavors, including hosting the ESPN Bassmasters Tour, which has resulted in annual economic impact of approximately \$7 million; and

WHEREAS, Robert Geraci's efforts have resulted in an A grade for the Onondaga County Parks System in annual public ratings in the areas of customer service, cleanliness and safety; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals 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 and pay tribute to Robert Geraci for his many years of service to the community, and wish him many wonderful years in retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Robert Geraci.