

2009-J3759

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Nanuet Fire Engine Company No. 1 to be celebrated on February 20, 2010

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Nanuet Fire Engine Company No. 1 and to honor its past and present firefighting members for 150 years of fire protection to the citizens of Nanuet, New York, and its surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Early on in Nanuet's history as a town with a permanent name, several men formed a fire company in 1860; today, it is the sixth oldest company in Rockland County; and

WHEREAS, On December 18, 1860, nine men banded together to form the Torrent Engine Company No. 1; the original members were: C.S. Ackerman, S. Blauvelt, John Brower, J.W. Demarest, D.F. Demarest, J.W. Hutton, H.V. Hutton, Charles E. Smith and N.H. Snyder; and

WHEREAS, The company purchased its first hand pumper in March of 1861; realizing the first pumper was more of a hindrance than help, the company purchased a new pumper in March of 1862; the pumper was a hand-drawn variety complete with its own wagon; and

WHEREAS, Even in those bygone days, the engines carried a portrait in a prominent position of Indian Chief Nannewitt; today, the Chief is still honored on the department's entire fleet with a portrait on each cab door; and

WHEREAS, In 1862, Nanuet Fire Engine Company No. 1 received its charter; on April 5, 1862, an act was passed in the state legislature incorporating the Nanuet Fire Engine Company, in Nanuet, Town of Clarkston, in the County of Rockland; not only had the company become official, it had undergone a name change; the company was now known as the Nanuet Fire Engine Company; and

WHEREAS, By the time the charter was granted, the Company had grown

from a small token number of nine to a firm nucleus of 16; at the time of the charter, the members were: C.S. Ackerman (original), Nicholas L. Blauvelt, Samuel Blauvelt (original), John Brower (original), Abraham D. Clark (DeClark), John Cooper, Cornelius G. Demarest, Joseph G. Demarest, J.W. Demarest (original), Henry Ferdon, George Cross, Jacob Gross, Jacob Haring, George Hinton, Lucas D. Isham and John Wood; and

WHEREAS, The start of the new century also saw the beginning of the modernization of Nanuet Fire Engine Company No. 1; within the first few months of 1900, electricity came to Nanuet but the firehouse did not receive it until the following year; and

WHEREAS, On July 4, 1904, Nanuet Fire Engine Company No. 1 was accepted into the Hudson Valley Firemen's Association; in August of the same year, the Nanuet Fire Department Women's Auxiliary was formed; and

WHEREAS, In 1906, a new engine was purchased, the American LaFrance; when the new engine arrived, it was decided to use teams of horses to transport it; as a result, the Company was able to respond quicker to a fire and have more strength and energy to combat it; and

WHEREAS, By 1908, Nanuet Fire Engine Company No. 1 felt in need of a new firehouse; it bought a piece of property located just south of where the 1868 firehouse stood; and

WHEREAS, After World War I was over and the firemen who served in the military returned home, the Department bought a motorized unit; even though the department was able to get to a fire more efficiently and faster, it did not abandon the old steam engine; instead it was kept for emergency use; this began the practice of always having a backup unit; and

WHEREAS, By 1932, the Department was in need of new equipment and ordered a four-wheel drive engine; in 1933, it took delivery of a brand new Peter Pirsch fire truck; and

WHEREAS, Tragedy struck on April 1, 1945, when the Nanuet firehouse was destroyed by fire; ground was broken for a new firehouse on Septem-

ber 10, 1945; the following year construction was completed and a new building was opened for business; and

WHEREAS, The year 1950 brought the resurrection of Nanuet's 1868 hand pumper; Walter Beatty found the old pumper, hardly recognizable in its poor state of dispair and spent many hours restoring it to its former beauty; when finished, it was given to the New York City Fire College to be displayed in the New York City Fire Museum located in Greenwich Village in New York City; today, the pumper is on display at the Rockland County Firemen's Museum in Pomona at the Rockland County Fire Training Center; and

WHEREAS, In 1960, the Company celebrated its Centennial; monstrous plans were underway including a huge carnival as well as a parade; most of the Nanuet firemen celebrated this occasion by growing beards; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Nanuet hosted the NY & NJ Volunteer Firemen's Association Parade in June of 1960, and more than 100 departments marched and over 25,000 people watched and participated in this event, one of the largest NY & NJ parades ever held; however, most importantly, the 1868 hand pumper was brought back from its honored place in the New York City Fire Museum and put on display for all to see; and

WHEREAS, The 1960s saw the small hamlet of Nanuet grow; not only had it gained many residences, but there was tremendous business growth; the department realized this, and in 1965 took delivery of a new 1000 gpm Maxim pumper as well as a Maxim Equipment truck; they became known as the 8-1000 and the 8-EQ; the 8-EQ was the first equipment truck to carry water and be almost self-sufficient; the addition of these two trucks necessitated an addition to the firehouse; a bay capable of handling three trucks was added to the present building on Prospect Street; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, Nanuet Fire Engine Company No. 1 received its first aerial platform truck, a 75-foot Snorkel truck, known as the 8-75, and made by the Young Fire Equipment Company and the Snorkel Company; and

WHEREAS, Also in 1976, the Department took delivery of another 1000 gpm pumper manufactured by the Young Fire Equipment Company; this pumper

became known as the 8-1001; with the arrival of this pumper, the 8-751, the 1955 Ward LaFrance pumper was retired; the Nanuet Fire Department now had six pieces of apparatus and continued to grow with the community; and

WHEREAS, Towards the end of 1976, the Company made the decision to lower the age limit from 18 years old to 16 years old to apply for membership; the first junior members as they were called started to join in the beginning of 1977, and turned out to be a very valuable program for the Company; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, the Company celebrated its 125th anniversary; just as was done in 1960, huge plans were made, including anniversary dinners, a carnival, a huge parade and just as was done in 1960, many of the men grew beards for the occasion; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, the Bardonia Men's Club, located on the corner of Bardonia Road and Renee Lane, donated their building and land to the company; however, legal debate delayed the construction of a firehouse until January 1999; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, the first Technical Rescue Team in Rockland County was formed; this team would be able to provide specialized rescue for rope, trench collapse, confined space rescue and building collapse; and

WHEREAS, In September of 1999, Hurricane Floyd struck Rockland County; not only did it create devastation and flooding throughout the county, it struck at the very heart of the department; the firehouse was literally underwater; and

WHEREAS, Undeterred, during the next three days, the Department responded to over 100 calls for structure fires, automatic alarms, rescues, wires down, pump-outs and flooding conditions; and

WHEREAS, Along with the rest of the world, the Company was in shock when the events of September 11, 2001 unfolded; although the department was not called directly to New York City to assist, Nanuet, along with every other department in the county, went on standby in case they were

needed; and

WHEREAS, During the next few days, money was raised throughout the county to help the families of the FDNY; during the next few months the company proudly assisted the New York City Fire Department with funeral and memorial details in Nanuet and surrounding areas; the 8-Tower went as far as Queens, New York for a flag detail; and

WHEREAS, In the spring of 2002, the fire prevention committee purchased a 30-foot fire prevention trailer; the addition of this trailer was a fantastic enhancement to the fire prevention program; and

WHEREAS, The past few years have brought many changes to the fire service and the Company; as it moves forward, new apparatus is being planned for, a new firehouse is on the horizon and its training continues to progress; today's 100+ members continue to do what so many

members have done before them, serve their community with pride; and

WHEREAS, Fire departments are an integral part of community protection services in every locality of our State; during the past 150 years, the courageous and devoted firefighters of Nanuet Fire Engine Company No. 1 have valiantly responded to all types of fire emergencies and have won the praise and respect of the community which they serve; and

WHEREAS, With a membership of dedicated firefighters, the record of Nanuet Fire Engine Company No. 1 in public service and fire protection is one to be envied; for 24 hours a day, for 365 days a year, for 150 years, whenever the alarm sounded, these noble volunteers left their homes and went to the aid of their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, The brave firefighters of Nanuet Fire Engine Company No. 1 are prepared to risk their lives every day to help save the lives of others and to protect homes and property from the destruction caused by fire; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body cannot express sufficient gratitude to those devoted individuals who recognize that the preservation of life and property is a sacred responsibility and who make that responsibility their own by serving as firefighters; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that we should give special recognition to those who work so assiduously for the betterment of their communities, and acknowledge publicly the heroic good works performed by the volunteer fire departments of this great Empire State, their officers and auxiliaries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to proudly commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Nanuet Fire Engine Company No. 1 to be celebrated on February 20, 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Nanuet Fire Engine Company No. 1.