

2009-J6207

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Trooper Sobrina Vazquez upon the occasion of her designation as the recipient of the Trooper William V. McDonagh Community Service Award at the 34th Annual New York State Police Awards Day Ceremony on May 20, 2010

WHEREAS, The quality and sanctity of community life are cherished values, worthy of safeguarding; this Legislative Body is moved to honor those who preserve and protect such values, lauding particularly their unwavering courage and dedication in the daily performance of their duties; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Trooper Sobrina Vazquez, of SP Oneida, Troop D, upon the occasion of her designation as the recipient of the Trooper William V. McDonagh Community Service Award; and

WHEREAS, A Trooper since June 28, 2004, she received the award in recognition of her outstanding community service efforts at the 34th Annual State Police Awards Day Ceremony, held at the New York State Police Academy in Albany on Thursday, May 20, 2010; and

WHEREAS, In July 2009, the first New York State Police Junior Police Academy began under the leadership of Trooper Sobrina Vazquez; held at a local high school in Syracuse, the initial goals of the Academy were to provide students with leadership skills as well as build character and enhance integrity; and

WHEREAS, Through the hard work and dedication shown by Trooper Vazquez, the Junior Police Academy has given the New York State Police the opportunity, as an agency, to establish personal interactions on a positive level with tomorrow's young adults; and

WHEREAS, From the outset, another purpose of the academy was to open up the State Police to diverse groups of young people, offering insight into and a new perspective on the State Police to young people who previously had little or no positive interaction with law enforcement; Trooper Vazquez also worked to create an atmosphere which will serve as a long-range recruitment tool; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Vazquez sought and received approval from the Troop Commander to see if a Junior Police Academy could be started to serve the youth of Central New York; special attention was given to reaching out to disadvantaged youth from various areas throughout the troop's service area; and

WHEREAS, She was able to set up two 2-week sessions, with about 20 students in each session; the recruits came from all over Central New York including Onondaga, Herkimer, Oneida, and Madison Counties; from rural areas as well as villages and cities; they were African American, Caucasian, Asian, Middle Eastern, Jewish, and Hispanic and were culturally diverse as well; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Vazquez set the requirements for admission at an appropriate level and was, in addition, the driving force behind the Academy curriculum; she designed a challenging environment that would also prove to be rewarding and was assisted during the sessions by a number of other troopers, including several SROs who altered their vacation schedule so they could participate and assist; and

WHEREAS, In addition to various courses and demonstrations, the students participated in physical training every day; they were held to high standards; each session held a graduation at the end of the two weeks and the participants were extremely appreciative of the chance to have participated; and

WHEREAS, Determined not to rest upon the success of the New York State Police Junior Police Academy, Trooper Vazquez developed another program known as STARS (Self-Esteem Teamwork Advancement Respect Self-Motivation) program; the STARS program has the same goals as the New York State Police Junior Police Academy but is offered on a part-time basis throughout the school year; and

WHEREAS, Through her work with these programs, Trooper Vazquez has ensured that these students have an informed view of what the State Police represents; they have already improved relations between the community and the State Police, and will hopefully become active and engaged citizens in the future; and

WHEREAS, In keeping with the finest traditions of the New York State Police, Trooper Sabrina Vazquez has distinguished herself by her exemplary achievement and outstanding performance on behalf of the community she so faithfully and courageously serves; and

WHEREAS, The dedicated efforts of public servants, such as Trooper Sobrina Vazquez, who unselfishly devote their lives to the preservation of order and the protection of others are worthy of the full praise of this Legislative Body and the people of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Trooper Sobrina Vazquez upon the occasion of her designation as the recipient of the Trooper William V. McDonagh Community Service Award at the 34th Annual New York State Police Awards Day Ceremony on May 20, 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Trooper Sobrina Vazquez.