

## 2011-J1012

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Firefighter Michael Giroux in recognition of his heroic action on March 4, 2011, in saving the lives of two citizens

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the caring concern and heroic acts of individuals in public service who take prompt and appropriate action in emergency situations, nobly risking their own lives in an effort to preserve the life of another; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Firefighter Michael Giroux in recognition of his heroic action on March 4, 2011, in saving the lives of two citizens; and

WHEREAS, Son of Richard and Ann Giroux, Michael Giroux is a native of Albany, New York; he attended Shenendehowa Schools in Clifton Park before earning his Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York at Cortland, and later a master's degree in Ex-Physiology from Adelphi University; and

WHEREAS, Michael Giroux worked at Cornell Medical Center and for several private doctors before accepting a position with the City of Yonkers Fire Department in 2000, where he was assigned to serve Ladder Seventy-One, Rescue One; in this capacity, he serves as a Specialist in Technical Rescue, who trains emergency personnel in saving lives from confined spaces, collapsed trenches, and rope rescues from buildings and escarpments; and

WHEREAS, On the afternoon of Friday, March 4, 2011, two workers were painting the facade of a high-rise building on Nepperhan Avenue in the City of Yonkers, New York, when their platform malfunctioned causing them to dangle perilously 13 stories above the ground; and

WHEREAS, Despite high winds, Firefighter Michael Giroux and his dedicated colleagues set a plan in action to safely remove the painters; he was chosen for his expertise to rappel down the 27 story apartment building from the building's roof to rescue the two men who were trapped; and

WHEREAS, Using the skills and techniques he has taught others, Michael Giroux went to work rescuing the first worker who he deemed to be in the most immediate danger; after successfully harnessing and lowering the first man to the ground, he immediately repeated the heroic actions, rescuing the second worker; and

WHEREAS, Michael Giroux's quick command and the heroic efforts of both he and his entire team resulted in the inspiring rescue that saved the lives of these two men; and

WHEREAS, Firefighter Michael Giroux's heroic actions were not possible without the help of Assistant Chief Roger Vitola and Firefighter Jose Caraballo of Battalion 1, Lieutenant Nicholas Sarro, Firefighter Brendan Healy, Firefighter Joseph Golusinski and Firefighter Douglas Higgins of Rescue 1; Captain Rudolph Sarro, Firefighter Timothy Sullivan, Firefighter John Rodriguez and Firefighter Kendrick Geiger of Ladder 71; Lieutenant Brian McCaffrey, Firefighter Brian Curran, Firefighter Kevin Mozdziak and Firefighter William Castillo of Engine 303; Lieutenant Christopher Williams, Firefighter Neill Tyndal, Jr., Firefighter Hugh McGahran, Firefighter Antonio C. Rodriques of Engine 304; Captain Joseph Darcy, Firefighter Hung Chun, Firefighter John Spano and Firefighter Christopher Leal of Engine 306; Lieutenant Daniel Flynn, Firefighter Christopher Mitchell, Firefighter Sean Flanagan and Firefighter Brian Pugsley of Engine 309; Captain John Aitcheson, Firefighter Michael Bernardi, Firefighter Peter Coogan and Firefighter Rocco DeVito of

Ladder 72; Assistant Chief Brian Travers and Firefighter Dan Kime of Battalion 2; Captain Thomas Travers, Firefighter Sean Faughnan, Firefighter Sean Connolly and Firefighter James Duff of Squad 11; Lieutenant

Kevin Cox, Firefighter Joseph Yedowitz, Firefighter Lawrence Valentino and Firefighter William Nowak of Engine 312; Lieutenant Michael Hanney, Firefighter Joseph Pinto, Firefighter Charles Maron and Firefighter Daniel Stangarone of Ladder 75 and, Assistant Chief William Fitzpatrick, Lieutenant Allen Felman, Lieutenant Ronald DeMarco, Firefighter Eugene Kelly and Assistant Chief John Flynn of Special Operations; and

WHEREAS, Also, assisting in the rescue efforts were members of the Yonkers Police Department's Emergency Services Unit including Captain Thomas Barnett, Sergeant Robert Akey, Police Officer Dennis Borelli, Police Officer Jorge Cordero, Police Officer Jamie Molino and Police Officer Anthony Alaimo; and

WHEREAS, Upon getting to the scene, the Yonkers Police Department's Emergency Services Unit was able to gain access to the victims through an apartment window on the 14th floor enabling them to pass the initial safety line to the men taking them out of imminent danger; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Yonkers Police Department's Emergency Services Unit were able to speak and translate to the painters who only spoke Spanish while also conducting a medical assessment, keeping the situation under control; and

WHEREAS, Due to the help from all of these emergency-response crews, who were instrumental with the rescue of the two workers after their scaffold collapsed, Firefighter Michael Giroux's efforts were triumphant; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Deana Giroux and their two daughters, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Michael Giroux has truly distinguished himself as one of New York's finest; when an act of such magnanimous heroism is brought to our official attention, the same should be memorialized for the edification and emulation of all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Firefighter Michael Giroux in recognition of his heroic action

on March 4, 2011, in saving the life of two citizens; and be it further  
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Michael Giroux.