

2011-J2119

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Kevin D. White upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Safe Harbors of the Hudson

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those extraordinary individuals who have made contributions to the success and progress of society in the course of their life's work; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor

Kevin D. White upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Safe Harbors of the Hudson, to be celebrated at its 5th Annual Gala on Saturday, June 11, 2011, in Newburgh, New York; and

WHEREAS, Incorporated in 2000, Safe Harbors of the Hudson is a non-profit organization that is committed to transforming lives and building communities through housing and the arts in the City of Newburgh; and

WHEREAS, Kevin White earned his bachelor's degree in management from Baruch College; he initially worked on Wall Street as an export analyst with a top export regulation firm, but although he enjoyed the work, he always had an interest in doing something more meaningful with his life; and

WHEREAS, Having grown up around drugs, crime and gangs that were typical of the South Bronx, Kevin White dreamed of returning to help others in need; in 1987, he abandoned his Wall Street career and landed a job as a substance abuse counselor, working with heroin addicts on New York City's Lower East Side; and

WHEREAS, Kevin White soon became a substance abuse counselor and staff trainer on Riker's Island, where he assisted inmates to prepare for a successful return to society; in 1993, he became the Director of the Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services, where he worked to secure the release of thousands of young felony offenders and

helped them enroll in school and find meaningful employment; and
WHEREAS, Kevin White later redirected his efforts toward prevention work and went on to establish several afterschool programs in Brooklyn and a welfare-to-work program for single mothers in Harlem; he also went on to earn his master's degree in education from Fordham University and has begun work towards a Ph.D. in sociology; and

WHEREAS, After returning to the Newburgh area, Kevin White's wife Kim, a former dancer, had a vision to create a school for the arts where underserved young people would have an opportunity to study the arts with some of the best artists in the area; this particular vision led to the 2004 creation of the Newburgh Performing Arts Academy (NPAA); and
WHEREAS, Under Kevin White's management and the creative talent of his wife, NPAA has grown to provide high quality professional instruction in dance, music, theater and visual arts with over 150 classes per week serving over 450 African-American and Latino students each year; and
WHEREAS, Three years ago, Kevin White expanded the mission of NPAA to include education programs and launched The Afterschool Project (TAP), a network of free afterschool and summer programs located in Newburgh that are designed to provide students with the academic, social and vocational skills they will need to successfully enter college and the workforce; TAP has a current enrollment of 650 youth and is continuously growing; and

WHEREAS, In July of 2010, Kevin White's successful management of NPAA led to the merger of the NPAA and the Glenn E. Hines Memorial Boys & Girls Club of Newburgh; under his leadership as executive director, the union has created an organization that provides outstanding youth development services in the arts, academics and athletics to over 2000 young people each year; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work with youth, Kevin White teaches Sociology at SUNY Orange and vows to continue his work to end poverty in Newburgh through the education of its youth; he is a true asset to soci-

ety; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned recognition and applause; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Kevin D. White upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Safe Harbors of the Hudson; and he it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kevin D. White.