

2011-J2123

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Sandra Oxford upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation's 2011 Mother Jones Award

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the efforts of individuals who distinguish themselves in service to the cause of working men and women in the State of New York; and WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Sandra Oxford upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation's 2011 Mother Jones Award, to be observed at its Fifth Annual Labor Heroes Celebration at Dutchess Manor in Beacon, New York on Friday, June 3, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Born in Manhattan, New York, and raised in Queens, Sandra Oxford raised her family in the rural communities of Ulster and Sullivan counties, where she has lived for the past 22 years of her life; she currently resides in a hamlet of Hurleyville in Sullivan County, New York; and

WHEREAS, Upon relocating in 1989 to a farm in Plattikill, New York, Sandra Oxford's world collided with the harsh, brutal and unfair conditions which the New York State Farm Workers faced; appalled by the economic inequity, systemic racism legislatively held over from the Jim Crow era, she developed her determination to become a strong ally to Farm Workers and the New York State Farm Worker Justice Campaign; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, a move to Sullivan County expanded Sandra Oxford's advocacy for workers' rights; in the heart of the county's food-processing corridor, she witnessed a great deal in the food production industry which inspired her to help seek reform; exposing the IDA, the Empire Zone Program, and local officials who were accomplices to the poverty style employment which was promoted as "economic development" in Sullivan County became her passion and full-time volunteer work; and

WHEREAS, Fortunately in 2004, the creation of the Worker Rights' Law Center offered Sandra Oxford a significant opportunity to volunteer and assist with a series of class action lawsuits which helped workers find

justice; in 2009, she formalized her volunteer work as an Executive Committee Member on the Workers' Rights Law Center Board; and WHEREAS, Currently, Sandra Oxford serves proudly as an Organizer and Representative for United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 888, servicing the Local's Health Care and Professional Division, having joined Region 1 staff in 2007; this experience has galvanized her commitment to empowering workers to make a difference in their lives, their workplace and working conditions by organizing and together creating a lasting power; and

WHEREAS, Sandra Oxford came to the UFCW with fifteen years of experience as a community organizer, educator, and trainer; her network and innovative approach to community building has been the cornerstone of her work; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years Sandra Oxford has served as the Director of three community based organizations committed to social justice, the Sullivan County Youth Advocate Program, the Sullivan County Mediation Office, and the Orange County Children's Center in the Court; and

WHEREAS, For the past two decades, Sandra Oxford has been appointed to various governmental boards, and has volunteered on numerous not-for-profit boards dedicated to health, legal representation for the indigent, youth services, and immigrant advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Sandra Oxford's recent volunteer work reorganized a not-for-profit which she originally founded in 2001, in Sullivan County, Somos

la Llave del Futuro, SLF; SLF expanded in 2007, to the Mid-Hudson Valley, driven by new leadership and a revitalized mission to empower the valley's Latino and immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her two wonderful sons, Zachary, and Desmond, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; 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 the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Sandra Oxford upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation's 2011 Mother Jones Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sandra Oxford.