

## 2013-J5043

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Maureen O'Connell upon the occasion of her designation as a 2014 Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women Achiever

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to outstanding individuals who distinguish themselves through their exceptional performance, attaining unprecedented success and the highest level of personal achievement; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Maureen O'Connell upon the occasion of her designation as a 2014 Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women Achiever; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated at the Center's 35th Annual Achievers' Awards Gala, to be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014; and

WHEREAS, For more than 35 years, the Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women has been dedicated to advancing women in business, industry and the professions; and

WHEREAS, The Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women celebrates and honors women who have made significant contributions in their fields, are leaders, mentors, and who have opened doors for other women to help foster their rise in business, the professions and in their community; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County Clerk, Maureen O'Connell, began her professional career as a Registered Nurse at North Shore University Hospital upon graduating from Flushing Hospital and Medical Center School of Nursing; during her service there, she designed and implemented the

H.O.M.E. pilot program for the home-based management of cancer patients of the hospital, and co-authored numerous articles regarding hospice care; and

WHEREAS, Maureen O'Connell holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Care Administration from St. Joseph's College, and earned her Juris Doctor from St. John's University School of Law, where she received the American Jurisprudence Award in Insurance Law; she combined her knowledge of law and health administration by practicing in the areas of civil litigation, elder law, and health regulatory compliance in the second largest law firm in Nassau County at the time; and

WHEREAS, From 1991 to 1998, Maureen O'Connell served as Trustee and Deputy Mayor of the Incorporated Village of East Williston; and

WHEREAS, In February 1998, Maureen O'Connell was the first woman elected to the New York State Assembly to represent the 17th District, which included parts of the towns of Hempstead and North Hempstead in Nassau County, New York; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure as State Legislator, Maureen O'Connell served as the Ranking Member of the Assembly's Health Committee, and in 2001, chaired the statewide taskforce on the critical shortage of nurses; she also served on the Assembly Judiciary, Insurance and Ethics Committees, and was a member of the Sexual Assault and Violence Education (S.A.V.E.) taskforce on sex crimes and violence against women and children; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Maureen O'Connell developed a distinguished record of constituent service, promoted numerous community based programs, and worked on numerous measures that were enacted into law; and

WHEREAS, In November 2005, Maureen O'Connell was elected countywide to the Office of Nassau County Clerk, and overwhelmingly re-elected in 2009 and 2013; currently, she serves as Clerk of the Supreme and County Courts, and is responsible for maintaining the official index of docu-

ments relating to real property ownership in Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Nassau County, Maureen O'Connell is a member of the Nassau County Bar Association having served on the Medical-Legal and Elder Law-Social Services-Health Advocacy Committees, and is a member of the Oncology Nursing Society, a member of the Mercy League of Roslyn and the Willistons, the American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Detection team, serves on the Board of Directors of the St. John's University School of Law Alumni Association, and the Maternity & Early Childhood Foundation; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Maureen O'Connell is a member of the School of Nursing Advisory Boards of Nassau Community College, Molloy College, and State University of New York at Farmingdale, as well as an adjunct faculty member of the Adelphi University School of Nursing; and

WHEREAS, Maureen O'Connell is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including being named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in Business by LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout has been her husband, Don, and their son, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their profession and community, and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Maureen O'Connell upon the occasion of her designation as a 2014 Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women Achiever; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Maureen O'Connell.