

2015-J57

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Charles J. Darden, Executive Director of RECAP, upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 34 years of distinguished service to the Orange County Community

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in this Nation, and the great State of New York, is reflective of the purposeful lives and good works of those patriotic and civic-minded community members who dedicate their lives and careers to the service of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Charles J. Darden, Executive Director of Regional Economic Community Action Program, Inc., (RECAP) upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 34 years of distinguished service to the Orange County Community; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated on Sunday, September 21, 2014, at Orange County Park in Montgomery, New York; and

WHEREAS, Charles J. "Chuck" Darden, was born in Amory, Mississippi, the fourth of five sons of the late George and Susie Darden; he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Jackson State University, and a Master's degree in Counseling from Indiana University in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Prior to joining RECAP, this esteemed man has worked as a counselor, teacher and administrator at prestigious institutions such as Rochester Institute of Technology, Temple University and Rockland Community College; while at Rockland Community College, he became Chairman of the Board of Directors at Rockland Community Action Council, Inc., and began his career as an Anti-Poverty Program Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to a life of helping others, Charles J. Darden assumed the role of Executive Director at RECAP on March 3, 1980; under his tenure, the organization became a more effective advocate for lower income populations and took important actions to improve the living conditions of those who were less fortunate; and

WHEREAS, The driving force behind much of RECAP's success for over three decades, Charles J. Darden has given true service to the people of Orange County; his work in developing supportive housing programs has helped many former homeless and potentially homeless individuals and families get a fresh start and a helping hand on the path towards self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, Charles J. Darden is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including Citizen of the Year from the National Association of Social Workers, the Orange County Human Rights Award, and the Key to the City of Middletown; in 2014, he was also recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award from Rehabilitation Support Services in Middletown; and

WHEREAS, In his official acts, Charles J. Darden was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; and

WHEREAS, A member of the boards of numerous civic and charitable organizations, Charles J. Darden further serves as a panelist on the National Low Income Energy Consortium, and New York State Rural Housing Coalition, a presenter of the New York Public Welfare Association, and as the moderator of Orange County's first Dialogue on Poverty; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, JoAnne Gurda, his son, Charles E. Darden, and his four grandchildren, Erin, Devin, CJ and

Kyndall, as well as one great-grandson, Jaxson, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, 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 honor Charles J. Darden, Executive Director of RECAP, upon the occasion of his retirement and to wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Charles J. Darden.