

2015-J299

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those outstanding institutions within our midst that strive to enhance the quality of life in their communities, by promoting wildlife conservation and science and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park, located in Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park, formerly known as Burnet Park Zoo, was founded in 1914; it originally opened as a red barn on a four-acre site in Burnet Park, managed by the City of Syracuse Parks and Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, In 1916, capital construction began on the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park with the building of stone exhibits for bears and a waterfowl pond; and

WHEREAS, After a loss in financial support during the 1960s, the Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo was founded in 1970 to provide support to the zoo through funds dedicated to the welfare of animals, educational programs and family-friendly facilities; the organization also provides special benefits for its members, including free admission to the zoo; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, Onondaga County took over management of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park and prepared a master plan for major zoo renovations; the new Rosamond Gifford Zoo opened its doors to the public on August 2, 1986; and

WHEREAS, One year later, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park

received its initial accreditation from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, a distinction earned by fewer than 220 institutions, guaranteeing that the zoo meets the highest standards of animal care and guest experience; and

WHEREAS, Since then, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park has continued to expand through projects which include, but are not limited to, the opening of Primate Park on July 15, 2010, featuring the siamangs, and the grand opening of the Northwestern Mutual Animal Encounter on June 5, 2013, which would become a premier new show yard and meet and greet area for the elephants and other animals; and

WHEREAS, The Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park has also designed a new and improved Asian Elephant Preserve which exceeds the Association of Zoos & Aquariums requirements for elephant breeding, giving the zoo the distinction of having one of the top five Asian elephant programs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Once a four-acre facility, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is now home to approximately 700 animals on 43 acres, and continuous improvements are being made to the zoo's infrastructure and animal exhibits; and

WHEREAS, For the past 100 years, the dedicated staff of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park has connected people to the natural world and provided engaging guest experiences, excellent animal care, and exceptional conservation education; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of the current Director Ted Fox, past directors and the dedicated staff members and volunteers of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park each has added to the success of the zoo and work to enrich the lives of the animals and help to educate the community at-large; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body cannot express sufficient gratitude to those trained and devoted individuals, who keep the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park operating every day; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to proudly commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ted Fox, Director, Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park.