

2015-J1029

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the City of Mechanicville

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the proud and distinguished histories of the communities which comprise the noble body of this great Empire State; 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 City of Mechanicville; and

WHEREAS, Tradition holds that four families settled on the south shore of the Tenedehowa Creek in 1764, a quarter mile upstream from where it empties into the Hudson River from the west; such humble beginnings as these would lay the basis for the emergence of a classic "milltown" in the early 20th century; and

WHEREAS, In the early 19th century, Mechanicville seemed destined to become the center of a budding, dynamic industry; the creation of the Champlain Canal spurred further settlement in the early 1800s, as did the creation of the Saratoga and Rensselaer Railway in 1835; and

WHEREAS, Economic developments in the last quarter of the 19th century laid the basis for Mechanicville to become a thriving industrial milltown; in 1873, the Hudson River Water Power and Paper Company began construction in Mechanicville on what was then the largest dam on the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, The expanded rail connections and papermaking operations became the basis of the community's growth and development for the better part of the next 100 years; by the time the United States entered World War I, the Mechanicville yards had become the third largest freight transfer hub in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Following the purchase of the local paper mill by the West

Virginia Pulp and Paper Company in 1904, the Mechanicville facility would develop into the largest book-paper mill in the world; and WHEREAS, In addition, a thriving textile industry, extensive brickyard operations, and the continued expansion of local sash and blind manufacturing helped Mechanicville become a thriving community of nearly 10,000 residents by the 1920s; and

WHEREAS, Occupying only eight-tenths of a square mile, this rapid growth spurred efforts by local officials to incorporate Mechanicville as a city; the State Legislature approved a new city charter which went into effect in 1915, thus making Mechanicville the smallest City in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Originally settled by Dutch farmers and migrants from New England, industrial expansion in the late 19th century attracted large numbers of migrants from Lithuania, Ireland, and Italy to the community; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, each of these ethnic groups established close-knit enclaves in Mechanicville, and long after restrictive legislation cut off the flow of emigrants to America, the offspring of the original migrants continue to honor their origins by adhering to a close-knit, family-centered way of life which gives this city a unique character of intimacy that is immediately apparent to visitors; and

WHEREAS, Of historic origin, and remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, the City of Mechanicville continues to provide the quintessential quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Mechanicville, New York have a bright outlook for the future of their community, which remains a beautiful place in which to live, work and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Mechanicville's rich history and enduring contribution to the State of New York, this Legislative Body is proud to pay tribute to this spirited town upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the City of Mechanicville, recognizing the significance of the role it continues to play in the life of the community of the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the City of Mechanicville.