

## 2015-J1032

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Karen M. St. Hilaire upon the occasion of her retirement after eight years of distinguished service as St.

Lawrence County Administrator

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

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished citizens of this great Empire State who have devoted themselves to faithfully serving the best interests of their community and the needs of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Karen M. St. Hilaire upon the occasion of her retirement after eight years of distinguished service as St. Lawrence County Administrator; she will officially retire on Friday, March 27, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Raised in Franklin County, Karen M. St. Hilaire has resided in St. Lawrence County for most of her adult life; she received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, where she also served for 10 years as spokesperson and Director of Communications; and

WHEREAS, In July of 2007, Karen M. St. Hilaire began serving as St. Lawrence County Administrator, a challenging role which involved managing 26 county departments, and approximately 900 employees, as well as overseeing a large annual budget; and

WHEREAS, During Karen M. St. Hilaire's tenure, the property tax levy decreased while the fund balance increased, and the tax rate has also decreased, which implies St. Lawrence County is on its way to becoming financially stable; and

WHEREAS, Karen M. St. Hilaire credits the county's Civil Service Employees Association for its role in helping county officials streamline the workforce, which reduced the cost of wages and benefits and future retirement expenses; and

WHEREAS, The ability to hire strong county department heads was among Karen M. St. Hilaire's greatest assets; she fostered good working relations and understandings between department heads; and

WHEREAS, Prior to her esteemed role as St. Lawrence County Administrator, Karen M. St. Hilaire served as President/CEO of the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, where she represented 800 member businesses; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure with the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, Karen M. St. Hilaire was named Small Business Advocate for the Northeast Region by the United States Small Business Administration; she was also recognized for Most Innovative Project at the World Chambers Congress in South Africa for a project she undertook to assist small businesses to move into e-commerce; and

WHEREAS, Since 2007, Karen M. St. Hilaire has faithfully served as St. Lawrence County Administrator; she will be remembered for her honesty, integrity, keen sense of duty and ability to show a unique grasp of human problems in her official acts; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for Karen M. St. Hilaire, and to wish her continued success in all her future endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Karen M. St. Hilaire upon the occasion of her retirement after eight years of distinguished service as St. Lawrence County Administrator; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Karen M. St. Hilaire.