

2015-J1220

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Barbara Smith upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Harvey Milk Award by the Pride Center of the Capital Region

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, Barbara Smith has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Barbara Smith upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Harvey Milk Award by the Pride Center of the Capital Region which was celebrated at its Annual Gala on Friday, October 24, 2014, at Hilton Albany in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Pride Center of the Capital Region is dedicated to serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in the Capital Region; since 1970, the center has been meeting the diverse needs of LGBT individuals; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Smith has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Smith is an author, activist, and independent scholar who has played a groundbreaking role in opening up a national cultural and political dialogue concerning the intersections of race, class, sexuality, and gender; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in the early 1970s, Barbara Smith has been active in numerous roles influencing Black feminist thought, and served with

many academic institutions; and

WHEREAS, Since moving to Albany in 1984, Barbara Smith has been a powerful voice in the local community, involved with the Arbor Hill Neighborhood, and advocating for public safety; and

WHEREAS, For eight years, Barbara Smith served on the Albany Common Council focusing her efforts on addressing violence and increasing educational opportunities for youth and families; during this time, she worked on the gun violence task force, led the effort to establish the Albany SUNY/Ceasefire, and served as Chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Smith was instrumental in initiating Code Blue, providing shelter for individuals in extreme weather conditions; in addition, she is the founder of the Albany Family Education Alliance, and served as Co-Convener of SUNY's Albany Promise; and

WHEREAS, Since 2010, this remarkable woman has been a Public Service Professor at University at Albany's School of Social Welfare; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Barbara Smith has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Barbara Smith has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Barbara Smith upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of

the Harvey Milk Award by the Pride Center of the Capital Region; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Barbara Smith.