

## 2015-J1312

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Robert Terry upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Self-Advocacy Award by Orange AHRC on April 9, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Robert Terry upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Self-Advocacy Award by Orange AHRC to be celebrated on Thursday, April 9, 2015, at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor, New York; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1954, Orange AHRC provides services and housing to children and adults with developmental disabilities including those with autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and intellectual and learning disorders; its mission is to assist people with disabilities in becoming respected and valued members of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Orange AHRC is focused on promoting community membership for adults with disabilities in three major areas: employment, volunteerism, and group affiliation; through active engagement in public life, the men and women supported by the agency gain both respect and visibility; and

WHEREAS, A self-advocate for the past four years, Robert Terry's personal mission is to lead self-advocates to a place where they can have equal citizenship in all aspects of society; and

WHEREAS, Robert Terry strives in his daily life to change the world through educating, empowering and advocating for others; he has a gift of knowing how to inspire people and lead them toward change; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Robert Terry holds the position of Personal Secretary to the President of the Self-Advocates Group, and has an unofficial role as Press Secretary to the entire administration of self-advocates; an enthusiastic supporter of Orange AHRC, his captivating energy and his leadership is helping guide the organization toward the future; and

WHEREAS, Robert Terry continues to promote self-advocacy by attending management meetings, trainings and workshops, strategic planning sessions, and other brainstorming events at Orange AHRC; he also volunteers on several committees, and has encouraged the creation of a second self-advocacy group at Orange AHRC's MAC Day Hab Program in Middletown; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Robert Terry upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Self-Advocacy Award by the Orange AHRC; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Robert Terry.