

2015-K370

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Delaware Opportunities Inc.

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 that are devoted 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 commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Delaware Opportunities Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Delaware Opportunities Inc. was established in 1965 as a Community Action Agency under the provisions of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964; its mission is to help people achieve self-sufficiency and attain a better quality of life; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed non-profit organization is led by a board of directors charged with the responsibility of identifying problems and opportunities faced by residents of Delaware County; it works to plan and implement programs which address problems and give lower income families and individuals access to greater opportunities; and

WHEREAS, In its first year, Delaware Opportunities Inc. sponsored a summer Head Start program, and initiated outreach programs and neighborhood centers; the agency continued to expand in the 1970s, adding the Senior Dining program, Weatherization program, and a WIC and a small rental assistance program limited to the Village of Walton; and

WHEREAS, During the 1980s, Delaware Opportunities Inc. started housing rehabilitation, and a program to assist people with heating costs, which later evolved into HEAP; in addition, it established such other initiatives as a food bank, a day care development and assistance program,

and a domestic violence prevention and services program; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, Delaware Opportunities Inc. was designated as a Rural Preservation Program by the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal; and

WHEREAS, Delaware Opportunities Inc. continued to expand its services and grow as it entered the 1990s; it added respite care and service coordination for families with developmentally disabled members and assuming responsibility for the Parent Aide and the Big Buddy Programs; transportation services were also significantly expanded to take people to and from medical appointments; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Delaware Opportunities Inc. added a work experience job crew for people on public assistance, and provided job development and job coaching staff to help people find and retain jobs, as well as services for pregnant mothers; and

WHEREAS, Delaware Opportunities Inc. was designated as a Housing Counseling agency by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and assumed operation of the Foster Homes and Independent Living Skills program, providing expanded services to particularly needy foster children; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable agency has grown tremendously during its five decades of outstanding service to the community, and by 2005 was providing assistance to more than 13,000 people; in 2014, the agency continues to serve approximately 20% of the county's population; they have served members of the county from all walks and stages of life; and

WHEREAS, The success of Delaware Opportunities Inc. is in direct correlation to the efforts of its staff and volunteers, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in

all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organiza-

tions of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Delaware Opportunities Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Delaware Opportunities Inc.