

2015-J2036

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Laura Garcia upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Orange County Human Rights Commission on May 28, 2015

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Laura Garcia upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Orange County Human Rights Commission, to be celebrated at its 20th Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 28, 2015, at The Fountains of Wallkill, Middletown, New York; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed woman has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; she is being honored by the Orange County Human Rights Commission in recognition of her steadfast dedication to her community and her work to build better relationships among diverse people, encouraging them to participate in community life on an equal basis; and

WHEREAS, Laura Garcia is the Racial Justice Program Coordinator for the YWCA of Orange County, New York; she is also the founder of Dreamers with No Borders, a group of young adults whose mission is to educate and empower the Latino, undocumented and migrant community in the Hudson Valley through the attainment of higher education and civic engagement;

and

WHEREAS, Active within the community, Laura Garcia has served on the Board of Directors for the Rural and Migrant Ministry for the past 15 years; she also coordinates Mujeres Latinas of The Hudson Valley, a group of undocumented, migrant women from the Middletown and Newburgh area who meet twice a month; and

WHEREAS, Understanding firsthand the need for women to feel safe, Laura Garcia has become a tireless advocate for women in the community; overcoming much adversity, she uses her own immigration experience to encourage women to take stronger leadership roles; and

WHEREAS, Laura Garcia is also the coordinator for Newburgh Girl Power Program whose mission is to provide adolescent girls with a dynamic youth experience through self-exploration, positive mentoring and support, personal empowerment, and leadership building skills in a culturally competent environment; the program aspires to produce young, confident and active community members by growing the leader within; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and accolades, Laura Garcia was recently highlighted in a short video done by women of the world from THE NEW YORK TIMES; she was also a special guest on "Univision al Despertar," one of the largest Spanish networks in the country, and was asked to be a key note speaker to Catholic charities state-wide event; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Laura Garcia 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 Laura Garcia has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of

this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Laura Garcia upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Orange County Human Rights Commission on May 28, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Laura Garcia.