

2015-J2039

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Gomez Mill House-Newburgh Enlarged City School District Local History Program on May 15, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those educators who seek to bring recognition and appreciation to historical places within the State of New York, and in doing so, help to ensure that the complete history of our State and Nation is preserved and shared with present generations of citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Gomez Mill House-Newburgh Enlarged City School District Local History Program to be celebrated on Friday, May 15, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The widely recognized and popular Gomez Mill House-Newburgh Enlarged City School District Local History Program began in 1995 when the Gomez Mill House reached out to teachers in the Newburgh elementary schools to begin coordinating field trips for students; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable private-public educational partnership developed with the mission to inspire "students to become tomorrow's leaders beyond Academy Field," and has realized its goal with the successful transition of Newburgh area students to college and the workforce; and

WHEREAS, The Newburgh Enlarged City School District, located at the Crossroads of the Northeast, serves students from four neighboring municipalities: the City of Newburgh, the Town of Newburgh, New Windsor, and a small portion of Cornwall; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1714, The Gomez Mill House is the oldest standing Jewish dwelling in North America and the oldest home on the National Register in Orange County, New York; and

WHEREAS, As the cornerstone of Jewish American experience in America, Gomez Mill House is unique among its peers in being home to five major historic figures whose lives and work not only impacted the commerce, governance, and civic life of Newburgh and its neighboring towns, but of New York State and America; and

WHEREAS, These early successful visits engendered such a spirited response from the children that the first few fourth grade classes soon shifted to the full complement of third grade classes in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Since then, from mid-April to mid-June, over 1,000 children per year from the Newburgh Enlarged City School District have visited the Gomez Mill House enjoying a full tour of the site and a hands-on papermaking experience; and

WHEREAS, The Gomez Mill House-Newburgh Enlarged City School District Local History Program has introduced students to many thought-provoking ideas on historic and contemporary subjects; the tours presume a natural intelligence and curiosity in third graders that is always successfully met with inquisitive and penetrating questions that tie into their knowledge, current curricula topics, or personal experience; and

WHEREAS, The success of this program would not be possible without the enlightened leadership of NECSD officials, and the cooperation and curriculum development of enthusiastic teachers, as well as the support of engaged parents; and

WHEREAS, The Gomez Mill House-Newburgh Enlarged City School District Local History Program is a testament to the positive impact private-public partnerships can have on local communities and on the children who participate in such experiences; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when historical education programs 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

commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Gomez Mill House-Newburgh Enlarged City School District Local History Program; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Gomez Mill House-Newburgh Enlarged City School District Local History Program.