

2015-J2322

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Maryanne Arena upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Women of Distinction Racial Justice Award by the Genesee County YWCA on June 13, 2015

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, Maryanne Arena 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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Maryanne Arena upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Women of Distinction Racial Justice Award by the Genesee County YWCA, to be celebrated at its inaugural Women of Distinction Awards Gala on Saturday, June 13, 2015, at Stuart Steiner Theatre, Genesee Community College, Batavia, New York; and

WHEREAS, Maryanne Arena 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, Maryanne Arena has played many roles in her lifetime from police officer and professional actress to teacher, program developer, and most recently as Director of Genesee Community College's fine and performing arts; and

WHEREAS, Raised in Brooklyn, New York, Maryanne Arena loved coming from a diverse background; she was the first woman police officer in her precinct where she was instrumental in stopping an armed robbery in progress; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Maryanne Arena created a college theater program while working in Michigan, as well as a gifted-and-talented program in

Virginia before coming to Western New York in 2005 and taking the Director's position at Genesee Community College (GCC); and

WHEREAS, A champion of equal rights, Maryanne Arena, in her capacity as Director of GCC's fine and performing arts, has opted for less popular and socially uncomfortable topics including racial inequality, domestic violence, schizophrenia and suicide, encouraging her students to grow, not just as students and performers, but as responsible individuals in society; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Maryanne Arena 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 Maryanne Arena has displayed throughout her life; 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 Maryanne Arena upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Women of Distinction Racial Justice Award by the Genesee County YWCA on June 13, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Maryanne Arena.