

2015-J2489

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 20th Anniversary of Garden Walk Buffalo on July 25-26, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by the availability of exceptional recreational events; 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 Garden Walk Buffalo on July 25-26, 2015, in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, Garden Walk Buffalo is a free, self-guided tour of more than 380 Buffalo gardens, held annually on the last weekend of July; it is one of the largest events of its kind in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, Marvin Lunenfeld and Gail McCarthy attended an urban garden tour in Chicago and were inspired to recreate the concept in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, The idea for a new garden tour was presented to the members of the Norwood/West Utica Neighborhood Association, and by the summer of 1995, a group of volunteers set up the basic structure for the first Garden Walk Buffalo, held on July 15-16, 1995; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, Garden Walk Buffalo's main goals have been to encourage neighborhood beautification and to promote community pride; no admission was charged for the first Garden Walk, a tradition which continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Garden Walk Buffalo has grown well beyond its original size and scope with the number of participating gardens increasing to over 380; and

WHEREAS, Since 2002, this esteemed event has provided grants for numerous community gardening projects, supporting more than 70 garden

projects in the last few years; and

WHEREAS, Most of Garden Walk Buffalo's participating gardens are private, but an increasing number of community spaces, corporate offices, and churches have taken part; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the boundaries of the tour extend five miles from the Frederick Law Olmstead-designed Delaware Park to downtown Buffalo's beautiful Art Deco City Hall; and

WHEREAS, Garden Walk Buffalo has become a signature summer event, proving to visitors from suburban Western New York and beyond that the area's natural scenery can rival its architectural splendor; and

WHEREAS, The success of Garden Walk Buffalo is in direct correlation to the efforts of its founders, volunteers and sponsors, 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 this institution and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when events 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 Garden Walk Buffalo; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Garden Walk Buffalo.