

2015-J2631

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Owen M. Smith upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Norman S. Rice Arts, Culture and Education Award by the Downtown Albany Business Improvement District on June 12, 2015

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 Owen M. Smith upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Norman S. Rice Arts, Culture and Education Award by the Downtown Albany Business Improvement District, to be celebrated at its 2015 captureALB Garden Party, on Friday, June 12, 2014, in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious award is named in recognition of the legacy of Norman S. Rice to the cultural and educational landscape of the Capital Region Arts, and honors an individual for their own lasting contributions to arts, culture and education for the local community; and

WHEREAS, The 2015 public exhibit captureALB, featuring 10 life-sized photo frames throughout Downtown Albany, will launch on June 12, 2015; historically, over 10,000 visitors each year share in the success of the public outdoor exhibit; this year the frames, approximately three feet by three feet, will act as a catalyst of interaction between employees, residents, visitors and the Downtown District; and

WHEREAS, Honorees such as Owen M. Smith demonstrate significant accomplishment in exposing the arts to a public audience in their role either as arts advocate, as an artist themselves, or as an art educator; and

WHEREAS, A native of Delmar, New York, Owen M. Smith is a graduate of

the Theatre Arts Program at the State University of New York at New Paltz; and

WHEREAS, A proud resident of the City of Albany, Owen M. Smith was a graduate of the Park Playhouse II Youth Theatre Program, and subsequently worked with Park Playhouse for over a decade as both a Director and as a Performer; and

WHEREAS, Owen M. Smith relocated to New York City, and became both the founding member and the Producing Director of The Clockwork Theatre; in this capacity, he directed several off-Broadway productions, including the Drama Desk nominated world premiere of UNDERGROUND; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Owen M. Smith played an integral role in the 40th Anniversary National Tour of FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, as well as in productions in New York and throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, After returning to the Capital Region, Owen M. Smith has held the position of Producing Artistic Director of the Park Playhouse since 2010; in addition, he has served as the Managing Director of the historic Palace Theatre for the last three years; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Owen M. Smith was instrumental in forging a strategic alliance between the Park Playhouse and the Palace Theatre, leading to his shared position between the two area arts organizations; and

WHEREAS, Two years later, Owen M. Smith was proudly named one of the ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW'S 40 Under 40; today, under his luminous leadership, the Park Playhouse has seen a resurgence in its artistic accolades, as well as significant growth in contributions and sponsorship; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their

profession, 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 Owen M. Smith upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Norman S. Rice Arts, Culture and Education Award by the Downtown Albany Business Improvement District on June 12, 2015; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Owen M. Smith.