

## 2015-J2954

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the City of Newburgh on June 20, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor the proud and distinguished histories of the communities which comprise the noble body of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the City of Newburgh, to be celebrated at its Illuminated Festival on Saturday, June 20, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Located on the west shore of the Hudson River, Newburgh incorporated as a village in 1800, doubling in population during its first 40 years to nearly 6,000 residents, much larger than the average American village of that time; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Newburgh became a major hub of commerce in the mid-Hudson; sailing sloops from Newburgh traded internationally, and steamboats stopped on the route between Albany and Manhattan; turnpike roads, augmented by canals, brought more trade, inventors thrived, and many new manufacturing businesses took advantage of the transportation network; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, financial institutions also took hold, and before the Civil War began, Newburgh had four local banks; the National Bank of Newburgh was tapped by the federal government to help fund the War of 1812; and

WHEREAS, The Civil War sparked an expansion of industry in the manufacture of critical supplies such as woolen blankets and cannon carriages, and veterans from the local Orange Blossom regiment returned and embraced a second chance at life; and

WHEREAS, Newburgh incorporated as a city in 1865, during which time

civic organizations thrived, and dozens of clubs and charities began a long history of public contribution and local pride; the City's decision to build Downing Park provided employment to local residents; and WHEREAS, As the 20th century dawned, Newburgh was thriving with over 100 manufacturing plants; its industries were predominantly machine shops, shipbuilding yards, cloth manufacturies, clothing design and production factories, brickyards, plaster works and shipping concerns; and

WHEREAS, Newburgh was also a recreational hub; sports included speed skating, ice boating, yachting and rowing clubs, baseball leagues, casinos and dance ballrooms, as well as many picnic groves, amusement parks and river excursion steamers with a great transportation network connecting it all; and

WHEREAS, As World War II ended, there was another building boom and the city's largest population of 32,000 was recorded in the 1950 census; a four-year college opened at Mount Saint Mary in 1960, and the New York State Thruway, Interstate 84 and the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge centered Newburgh on Northeast United States maps; and

WHEREAS, In the 1970s, volunteers catalogued over 4,000 historic buildings in the East End, which was declared a National Historic District in 1973, and enlarged in 1985; the Vaux-designed City Club on Grand Street and five brick Victorian houses on Montgomery Street were saved from demolitions, and in 1998 the city received a Save America's Treasures grant for the Dutch Reformed Church, which was declared a National Historic Landmark in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Today, the waterfront is a bustling destination, featuring a half-dozen restaurants and other businesses, drawing thousands of customers every weekend; and

WHEREAS, A true gem, Newburgh has the largest historic district in the state, as well as beautifully designed neighborhoods like Washington Heights and Colonial Terraces, a great scenic park in Downing and a

great recreational park in Delano Hitch; and

WHEREAS, Newburgh also has a growing arts community to feed the imagination and a remarkably rich collective of civic improvement organizations in which citizen volunteers keep the city moving ahead; and

WHEREAS, Of historic origin, and remaining fruitful over the ebb and flow of decades of growth and change, the City of Newburgh continues to provide the quintessential quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Newburgh, New York have a bright outlook for the future of their community, which remains a beautiful place in which to live, work and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Newburgh's rich history and enduring contribution to the State of New York, this Legislative Body is proud to pay tribute to this spirited town upon the occasion of its 150th Anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the City of Newburgh on June 20, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the City of Newburgh.