

2015-J3016

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Marsha Weissman upon the occasion of her retirement from the Center for Community Alternatives

WHEREAS, It is the custom of Legislative Body to recognize those skilled and dedicated individuals within our midst whose professional and personal achievements merit the recognition of their local communities and this Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Marsha Weissman upon the occasion of her retirement from the Center for Community Alternatives, where she has served as Founder and Executive Director for nearly 35 years; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) is a leader in the field of community-based alternatives to incarceration; the organization's mission is to promote a reduced reliance on incarceration through advocacy, services and public policy development, and it serves at-risk youth, families in crisis and individuals who are struggling with various issues, such as drug use; and

WHEREAS, Marsha Weissman received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Syracuse University, her master's degree in Public Administration from New York University and her Ph.D. in Social Science from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at SU; and

WHEREAS, Marsha Weissman first became interested and experienced in the criminal justice system in the early 1970s, when she was asked to work on behalf of the defendants charged in the Attica prison uprising; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, Marsha Weissman decided to launch the Center for Community Alternatives with a staff of three which included herself; the CCA was one of the first voices in the State of New York calling for

alternatives to incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Center for Community Alternatives employs more than 90 talented and dedicated staff members, and serves thousands of individuals every year in three different locations across New York; and

WHEREAS, As a leader in the field of community-based alternatives to incarceration, Marsha Weissman has developed pioneering services and innovative policy analysis and training to focus on the impact of incarceration on communities statewide; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of her tenure, Marsha Weissman has established model programs for youth and young adults in the juvenile and criminal justice system, including New York's only alternative to incarceration program for juvenile offenders;

WHEREAS, In addition to her leadership role at the Center for Community Alternatives, Marsha Weissman has served on various boards and associations on the state and local level; currently, she serves on the New York State Council on Community Re-Entry and Reintegration; is a member of the Boards of the New York State Defenders Association and the National HIRE Networks; testified before the United Nations Committee to End Racial Discrimination, along with youth from the CCA's juvenile justice programs; and participated in a unique collaboration with the Syracuse City School District to reduce suspensions and expulsions of high risk youth; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Marsha Weissman has authored several publications on the issue of alternatives to incarceration, including PRELUDE TO PRISON: YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE, which was published by Syracuse University Press in 2014; and

WHEREAS, For her significant contributions, Marsha Weissman received the 2015 YWCA Diversity Achiever Award, the Sara Tusoldt Leadership &

Humanitarian Award, the 2010 NYCLU Kharas Award for Distinguished Service in Civil Liberties, the 2006 Onondaga County and Syracuse Commission on Human Rights Award, and the 2002 New York State Division

of Parole Linda Mills Memorial Award for Public Service; 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
commend Marsha Weissman upon the occasion of her retirement from the
Center for Community Alternatives, and to wish her well in all her
future endeavors; and be it further
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-
smitted to Marsha Weissman.