

## 2015-J4084

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Robert D. Manfred, Jr. upon the occasion of being named the 10th Commissioner of Major League Baseball

WHEREAS, It is with great pride that this Legislative Body commends those professionals who represent the State of New York and bring honor to the game of baseball, distinguishing themselves through notable achievement and thereby representing this great Empire State with exceptional pride and determination; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Robert D. Manfred, Jr. upon the occasion of being named the 10th Commissioner of Major League Baseball; and

WHEREAS, Robert D. Manfred, Jr., a native of Rome, New York, was elected as the 10th Commissioner in the history of Major League Baseball (MLB) on August 14, 2014, by a unanimous vote of the 30 Major League Clubs; he officially became the sport's leader on January 25, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his selection for this esteemed position, Robert D. Manfred, Jr. served as Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Major League Baseball; during this time he managed the Commissioner's Office in New York, worked closely with Club ownership and management executives, and addressed a variety of the industry's economic, governance and policy issues; and

WHEREAS, As COO, Robert D. Manfred, Jr. also oversaw labor relations, baseball operations, baseball development, finance, administration and other key areas; and

WHEREAS, Before becoming COO, Robert D. Manfred, Jr. served as MLB's Executive Vice President for Economics and League Affairs, where he reported directly to the Commissioner and was responsible for major economic matters, as well as franchise-specific matters involving the 30 Major League Clubs; and

WHEREAS, From 1998 to 2012, Robert D. Manfred, Jr. was Executive Vice President for Labor Relations and Human Resources; in both capacities, he directed all issues related to collective bargaining with the Major League Baseball Players Association, including the successful renewals of the Basic Agreement in 2002, 2006 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, those agreements helped realize the then Commissioner's vision of competitive balance and club financial stability through reforms such as increased revenue sharing, more aggressive payroll taxes, reform of the amateur talent acquisition process and strict debt regulation; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Robert D. Manfred, Jr., the 2002 labor pact was the first in more than 30 years to be settled between the two parties without incurring a work stoppage; Major League Baseball is currently in the midst of a period of at least 21 consecutive years of labor peace, a stretch that is unprecedented in the sport's history; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious tenure, Robert D. Manfred, Jr. also represented MLB on all upgrades to the game's Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program, which stands as the toughest and most comprehensive in American professional sports; and

WHEREAS, Robert D. Manfred, Jr. is a 1980 graduate of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University; three years later, he received his law degree magna cum laude from Harvard Law School where he was an articles editor of the HARVARD LAW REVIEW; and

WHEREAS, Active in several professional organizations, Robert D. Manfred, Jr. is a member of the Labor Section of the American Bar Association, the Massachusetts and District of Columbia Bar Associations and the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers; he also served as a member

of the Board of Directors of the Sports Lawyers Association and the Partnership for Clean Competition; and

WHEREAS, Robert D. Manfred, Jr. has been the proud recipient of numer-

ous awards and accolades including being named Labor Counsel of the Year in 2008 by the Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel; he was also awarded an honorary degree by Le Moyne College in 2010; and WHEREAS, In addition, as part of a new category in the Rome Sports Hall of Fame, Robert D. Manfred, Jr. will be honored as a contributor, someone who has made long term, meaningful and substantive contributions which resulted in the furtherance of sports and athletics; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, is pleased to bestow upon Robert D. Manfred, Jr., its highest commendation after earning the highest position in Major League Baseball; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Robert D. Manfred, Jr. upon the occasion of being named the 10th Commissioner of Major League Baseball; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Robert D. Manfred, Jr.