

2015-J4247

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Patrick Harkin upon the occasion of his selection as Deputy Marshal of the Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 20, 2016

WHEREAS, St. Patrick's Day is a time for people of all nationalities and generations to assemble and celebrate the rich culture and heritage of the Irish people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, A St. Patrick's Day parade reflects and records the ongoing history of the United States and Ireland, and provides opportunity for people of all generations to assemble in ethnic pride and pageantry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Patrick Harkin upon the occasion of his selection as Deputy Marshal of the Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 20, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Harkin will be marching this year in memory of his beloved Grandma Winnie, a lifelong Bay Ridge resident who was very proud of her Irish heritage; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, Patrick Harkin grew up around the block from St. Ephrem's Church, where he attended grammar school and was active with the sports program; he then attended Xaverian High School where he learned to play the bagpipes; from 2001-2002, he served as the band's Pipe Major; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Harkin was awarded a bagpipe scholarship to Iona College when he graduated from high school in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Eager to explore his Irish roots from the Counties of Tipperary and Donegal, Patrick Harkin took his first trip to Ireland in June of 2001; and

WHEREAS, Since August of 2005, Patrick Harkin has been a vital member

of the New York City Department of Sanitation; currently, he works in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his career with the Department, he has also served as a shop steward, and as an Environmental Police Officer, dealing with the illegal disposal of asbestos and medical waste; he is an enthusiastic member of the New York Strongest Football Team; and

WHEREAS, Patrick Harkin also enjoys serving bar at various neighborhood establishments, such as Kettle Black, Wicked Monk and Yellowhook Grille, where he has always been honored to work and become friendly with the many wonderful residents of Bay Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Affectionately known as the Piper, Patrick Harkin has played the bagpipes at many ceilis, weddings and wakes throughout Bay Ridge; he also has performed in dozens of St. Patrick's Day parades and at the Tribeca film festival, as well as multiple dedication and memorial ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, A noble Irish Man, Patrick Harkin is a proud member of the Knights of Columbus, Sheridan 908 and Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 12; and

WHEREAS, For the last four years, Patrick Harkin has been a vital member of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, serving as headquarters liaison and events coordinator; in this capacity, he organized the groups inaugural bus trip to the Mets' Irish Night this past summer; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his loving fiancée, Cate, who feels privileged to be a part of his life and rejoices in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, intellect and commitment as that demonstrated by over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, A fitting choice for Deputy Marshal of the Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade, Patrick Harkin embodies the spirit and the cherished ideals and values of Irish-Americans of this great State and

Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Patrick Harkin upon the occasion of his selection as Deputy Marshal of the Annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 20, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Deputy Marshal Patrick Harkin.