

2015-J4291

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Peter F. Whalen 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 Peter F. Whalen 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, Born and raised in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, Peter F. Whalen is the youngest son of Patrick and the late Anna Whalen; proud of his Irish lineage, Peter traces his roots to his father's parents, the late Michael and Catherine Whalen; and

WHEREAS, His grandfather, Michael Whalen was born and raised in Renvyle, County Galway; he emigrated to the United States in 1910, and proudly served as a member of the United States Army in WW I; and

WHEREAS, Peter F. Whalen's grandmother, Catherine Whalen, was born and raised in Ballinrobe, County Mayo; in 1915, she emigrated to the United States aboard the freightliner which rescued survivors of the Lusitania tragedy; and

WHEREAS, After his grandparents were married, they happily raised their children in the Bronx, and then in Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Peter F. Whalen's mother, Anna Pauline Lane, was the youngest

of seven children born to Patrick and Abby Lane; raised in Atleague, County Roscommon, she immigrated to England in 1943, where she endured the final two years of WW II, spending many nights in bomb shelters; and WHEREAS, In 1947, Anna Pauline Lane returned to Ireland for a short time before emigrating to the United States, where she was soon joined by her brother, Andrew; they settled in Sunnyside, Queens with their Aunt, Marie (Finneran) Opault; and

WHEREAS, Peter F. Whalen's parents married in 1953, and settled in Sunset Park, where they raised five children, Thomas, Patrick, Jr., Maureen, Joseph and the late Kevin; seven years later, they fulfilled the American dream and purchased a home in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, where Peter was born; and

WHEREAS, Peter F. Whalen attended Our Lady of Angels grammar school and Fort Hamilton High School; in 1986, he began his Law Enforcement career with the New York City Transit Police; and

WHEREAS, Nine years later, Peter F. Whalen joined the NYPD with the merger of the two departments; today, he serves as Detective to the NYPD Emergency Services Unit in Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, A noble Irishman, Peter F. Whalen holds the position of President of the NYPD Emerald Society; in addition, he is a member of the NYPD Holy Name Society, NYPD Honor Legion and AOH Division No. 22; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his loving wife, the former Madeline Smith, and his two treasured children, Peter, Jr. and Victoria Patricia, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, intellect and commitment as that demonstrated 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, Peter F. Whalen 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 Peter F. Whalen 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 Peter F. Whalen.