

## 2015-J4309

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Carolyn McLaughlin upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Capital District YMCA President's Award on April 21, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Carolyn McLaughlin upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Capital District YMCA President's Award to be celebrated at its Annual President's Award Dinner, on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at the Albany Marriott, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, A proud Albany native, Carolyn McLaughlin earned a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Keuka College; after receiving a National Urban Fellowship, she completed her masters' in Public Administration from Baruch College of New York City; and

WHEREAS, After completing her studies, Carolyn McLaughlin worked for 10 years as a research chemist in the areas of cosmetics development and nuclear weapons research; and

WHEREAS, For the past 28 years, Carolyn McLaughlin has strived to affect such important issues as affordable housing, rehabilitation of abandoned property, education reform, healthcare, and the War on Drugs, as well as childcare and senior services, in an effort to improve the quality of life across all neighborhoods in the city of Albany; and

WHEREAS, Elected to the Albany Common Council in 1997, Carolyn McLaughlin proudly represented the Second Ward in the historic South End

for 12 years; during this time, she served as Majority Leader and held memberships on the Finance, Taxation and Assessment and Planning, Economic Development and Land Use committees; and

WHEREAS, After serving three terms as Second Ward Council Member, Carolyn McLaughlin became the first African-American President of the Albany Common Council in 2009; and

WHEREAS, While serving as an elected leader, Carolyn McLaughlin also worked as an Assistant Manager in the Human Resources Department of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS); in addition, she served in the New York State Division of Budget, and as Assistant Manager for Budget and Planning; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, this esteemed civic leader began her second four-year term as Common Council President, and was also elected Chair of the Albany County Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, During her illustrious tenure, Carolyn McLaughlin served as Chair of the Housing and Community Development Committee where she oversaw the Community Development Block Grant process; she was also a passionate advocate for quality affordable housing in the City of Albany, and co-sponsored legislation which established a vacant building registry; and

WHEREAS, In her role as Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Carolyn McLaughlin was the lead sponsor for legislation which established the Citizens Police Review Board in the City of Albany; she also served on the South End Task Force, and helped in discussions which resulted in the opening of the Capital South Campus Center in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Carolyn McLaughlin has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; currently, she serves as a member

of the Capital South Campus Center Advisory Board, the Schenectady County Community College Albany Advisory Committee, the Black Woman's Association of Albany and the Woman's Club of Albany; and

WHEREAS, A woman of faith, Carolyn is an active member of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and serves as a member of the Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee of the Capital Area Council of Churches; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Carolyn McLaughlin has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Carolyn McLaughlin has displayed throughout her life; she has exhibited the true spirit of this esteemed award through her tireless dedication to the YMCA and her community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Carolyn McLaughlin upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Capital District YMCA President's Award on April 21, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Carolyn McLaughlin.