

## 2015-J5412

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Commissioner Walter Koury upon the occasion of his retirement after 12 years of distinguished service to the Orange County Department of Emergency Services

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, For the past 12 years, Commissioner Walter Koury rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Orange County Department of Emergency Services, which was formed by the merger of four emergency service agencies, E-911, the Office of Emergency Management and the offices of the Fire Coordinator and Emergency Medical Services; and

WHEREAS, This vital agency is comprised of approximately 120 employees, a division of Homeland Security and a part-time liaison to interact with more than 30 police agencies in the county; and

WHEREAS, Walter Koury began his distinguished career as a public servant as a senior at Newburgh Free Academy in 1969, when he joined the Winona Lake Fire Department in the Town of Newburgh, New York; he served with the Department until 1982; and

WHEREAS, From 1974-2004, Walter Koury worked for the Town of New Windsor Police Department, holding the esteemed rank of Chief of Police during his last 20 years of service; and

WHEREAS, After leaving the Town of New Windsor Police Department in 2004, Walter Koury was appointed as Orange County's first Commissioner of Emergency Services, a title from which he will officially retire on June 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, In this role, Walter Koury made numerous contributions to Orange County's Department of Emergency Services; he was instrumental in

helping Orange County develop the state-of-the-art Emergency Services Center in the Town of Goshen, which was opened in July of 2008; and WHEREAS, In addition, Walter Koury worked closely with the County's Public Safety and Emergency Services Legislative Committee to gain approval for additional funding to provide public safety agencies with Motorola mobile and portable radios which will be provided to at least five Orange County departments and to 100 Police-Fire-EMS agencies in the County; this innovative radio solution is scheduled to be operational in 2017; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as Commissioner, Walter Koury served with loyalty, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, In his official acts, Walter Koury was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure with the Orange County Department of Emergency Services, Walter Koury earned the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Commissioner Walter Koury upon the occasion of his retirement after 12 years of distinguished service to the Orange County Department of Emergency Services, and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Commissioner Walter Koury.