

## 2015-J6086

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Anthony C. Conte upon the occasion of his retirement after 15 years of distinguished service as President of Shea's Performing Arts Center

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

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Anthony C. Conte upon the occasion of his retirement after 15 years of distinguished service as President of Shea's Performing Arts Center; he will officially step down at the end of the 2015-16 season, but will remain as a part-time consultant working on special projects; and

WHEREAS, For the past 15 years, Anthony C. Conte has rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service as President of Shea's Performing Arts Center; during this time, he oversaw the theatre's restoration and helped transform the former movie palace into one of Western New York's most successful arts venues; and

WHEREAS, As a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance, and SUNY at Buffalo with an MBA, and a former M&T Bank Executive and co-Owner & President of Larry Smith Office, Anthony C. Conte volunteered at Shea's Performing Arts Center in the 1970s, and later, assumed leadership, in 2001 during a difficult time for the historic Buffalo theater which was first opened in 1926; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious tenure, President Anthony C. Conte oversaw the authentic restoration of this cultural landmark's facilities; in addition, his exceptional guidance and vision have helped place the theatre on outstanding financial footing with a 310% increase in the

number of season tickets sold annually; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man has also helped expand Shea's Performing Arts Center to include not only the historic 3,000-seat theatre which presents touring Broadway musicals, concerts, educational productions and other programs, but also the 230-seat Shea's Smith Theatre for off-Broadway musicals and comedies and the 625-seat Shea's 710 Main Theatre, which shows dramatic plays; and

WHEREAS, In his official acts, President Anthony C. Conte displayed tremendous vision, creativity, kindness, and collaborative spirit, making Buffalo one of the best midsize theater destinations and Broadway subscription markets in the country; and

WHEREAS, Anthony C. Conte has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; he has served as president of the Theatre District Association, and is a member of both the Road Labor and Legislative Committees of The Broadway League, and the Advisory Council of the Wehle School of Business at Canisius College; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of countless awards and honors, Anthony C. Conte has been named BUFFALO BUSINESS FIRST'S Most Influential Business Leader, Western New York, three years straight; on May 3, 2016, he was presented with the Visit Buffalo Niagara's Tim Russert Award and entered the Buffalo Ambassador's Hall of Fame and THE BUFFALO NEWS' 2012 Outstanding Citizen; he was also presented with the 2011 Leadership Buffalo Community Impact Award; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his loving wife, Linda, their three children, and eight grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all

the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Anthony C. Conte upon the occasion of his retirement after 15 years of distinguished service as President of Shea's Performing Arts Center; and be it

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Anthony C. Conte.