

2021-J2598

Senate Resolution No. 2598

BY: Senator MANNION

COMMEMORATING the 25th Anniversary of Home
HeadQuarters of Syracuse, New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Home HeadQuarters of Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, Home HeadQuarters is a non-profit housing and community development organization and certified Community Development Financial Institution whose mission is to create housing opportunities in Central and Upstate New York for individuals and families and improve the communities in which they live; and

WHEREAS, Home HeadQuarters was founded in 1996, to address the declining owner-occupancy rate and overall disinvestment in the City of Syracuse; it also focused on implementing a home improvement lending program and providing homeownership education to create new city home buyers and maintain and improve city neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, In 1999, Home Headquarters joined the national NeighborWorks America Network, and became a certified NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Center; since then, it has become one of the leading providers of homebuyer education and counseling in the country, regularly ranking in the top 10 of all 240+ NeighborWorks organizations nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Home Headquarters was the lead administrator of the Syracuse Neighborhood Initiative (SNI) program created almost a decade ago by Congressman James T. Walsh, and successfully delivered the majority of SNI's \$81 million in housing and neighborhood investment to many neighborhoods and target areas and hundreds of families in the City of Syracuse; and

WHEREAS, Programming included neighborhood planning and development, resident capacity building, home improvement loans, mini-grants, home equity protection, purchase and rehab grants, new construction, substantial rehab, and demolition; and

WHEREAS, Today, Home Headquarters serves residents throughout Upstate New York as well as acting as the primary housing delivery agency in the City of Syracuse by substantially rehabilitating distressed properties, building new homes for purchase by first-time homebuyers and providing low to moderate-income families with Urgent Care, Closing Cost Assistance and Syracuse Homeowner Assistance programs made possible with federal Community Development Block Grants and HOME Funding; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Home Headquarters works in conjunction with the Greater Syracuse Land Bank by redeveloping their vacant properties and providing purchase and construction financing to other homebuyers

and investors developing Land Bank properties; and

WHEREAS, As a neighborhood development organization, Home HeadQuarters also includes affiliates CNY Affordable Realty, the only non-profit realty in Central New York, and Opportunity Headquarters, a full-service construction crew; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Home HeadQuarters is focusing on initiatives and programs that work to create equitable housing and financing opportunities for underserved people; end lead poisoning; fill gaps in the lending market by providing financing for local investors, MWBE certified contractors and other non-profits; create more affordable rental opportunities; and develop vacant commercial and mixed-use properties within the development model; and

WHEREAS, Home HeadQuarters is also the non-profit partner for the Syracuse Financial Empowerment Center, which offers free, professional financial counseling to any city resident; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its 25-year history, Home HeadQuarters has played a major role in stabilizing and revitalizing Central and Upstate New York neighborhoods by directly facilitating more than 4,000 homebuyers; providing more than \$140 million in home improvement loans and grants and \$28 million in down payment assistance and first mortgage financing; removing more than 525 derelict structures; rehabilitating 230 formerly vacant properties and constructing more than 70 new, energy-efficient homes; and

WHEREAS, More than 18,000 people have come to Home HeadQuarters seeking education and counseling on buying a home, building family wealth, becoming credit smart or keeping their home from foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, Home HeadQuarters is one of the leading lenders for families looking to repair their homes in the City of Syracuse, providing 65% of all lending activity to families of color and out lending all other financial institutions combined; and

WHEREAS, For its steadfast and unremitting commitment to its community, Home HeadQuarters has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the National Association of REALTORS Hope Award Winner, the 2020 NeighborWorks America Top Home Improvement Lender Award, and several LEED Platinum, Gold and Silver Development Awards; and

WHEREAS, Home HeadQuarters received an Aeris A+ Performance Rating and was named the Upstate Minority Economic Alliance (UMEA) Community Organization of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Home HeadQuarters has earned certifications from HUD-affiliated Local Housing Counseling Agency, Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), Community Development Entity (CDE), Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), and Community Based

Development Organization; it is also a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York and U.S. Green Building; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence 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 commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Home HeadQuarters of Syracuse, New

York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Home Headquarters.