

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jimmy Lawrence for volunteering his time serving as a personal ski coach at Windham Mountain

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jimmy Lawrence for volunteering his time serving as a personal ski coach at Windham Mountain; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Lawrence, a 2003 graduate of Windham-Ashland-Jewett High School, never imagined that he would currently be in Park City, Utah, working as an Olympic trainer; his Olympic journey began in earnest working as a personal coach at Windham Mountain; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from high school, Jimmy Lawrence's ambitions moved him around six different colleges, until he returned to Windham in 2010; his parents still live in the area and are owners of Windham Hardware; and

WHEREAS, It was at Windham Mountain when Jimmy Lawrence was introduced to Brooklyn native Jamie Sarubbi, a competitive ski racer; when he trained her, she would talk about her sister, Caitlin; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Lawrence found out that Caitlin was a Pre-Med student at Harvard University; Jamie then told him that Caitlin also suffers from Ablepharon Macrostomia Syndrome, a rare disorder that leaves her legally blind; and

WHEREAS, Being amazed, Jimmy Lawrence found out that Caitlin is a competitive skier, where she won a variety of world championships while in high school, but had taken a break from skiing since attending college; Caitlin and her family were attracted to Windham thanks to the Adaptive Sports Foundation, which nurtures athletes who suffer from a variety of disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Out of only four visually impaired women in the entire United States who compete at a high level, two of them train at Windham; in the fall of 2012, Caitlin faced a decisive point where she could either continue on with her Harvard studies, or take a year-long leave of absence and train for a chance at the upcoming Sochi, Russia Paralympics; and

WHEREAS, Caitlin did not want to forgo a possibility of being a part of the United States Olympic team; the only thing she needed to participate was a guide; and

WHEREAS, Being that it is very difficult for a visually impaired ski racer to find a guide, Caitlin's mother asked Jimmy Lawrence if he knew anyone; he then volunteered himself, dropped out of the Master's program at Long Island University, and within a week was on a plane to Colorado's Copper Mountain to begin training; and

WHEREAS, Working with Caitlin, Jimmy Lawrence serves a few vital roles, including skiing the slopes with her and communicating with her through a headset for directions; their Olympic quest went from Colorado to Windham and now Utah, where they train daily; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Lawrence has high expectations for Caitlin when the Sochi Paralympics take place in March of 2014, but the final United States team will not be decided until February of 2014; thus far, his experience has been one of a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Jimmy Lawrence's distinguished record merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Jimmy Lawrence for volunteering his time serving as a personal ski

coach at Windham Mountain; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jimmy Lawrence.