

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Sidney Hirschfeld upon the occasion of his designation by the Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc. as the recipient of its 2013 Silver Bell Award on February 2, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the practice 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 organizations, businesses, and individuals who devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Sidney Hirschfeld upon the occasion of his designation by the Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc. (MHA) as the recipient of its 2013 Silver Bell Award; and

WHEREAS, The Mental Health Association of Orange County seeks to promote the positive mental health and emotional well-being of Orange County residents, working toward reducing the stigma of mental illness and developmental disabilities, and providing support to victims of sexual assault and other crimes; and

WHEREAS, Working in partnership with service recipients, families, volunteers and the community, MHA strives to fulfill its mission through advocacy, direct service, education and information dissemination; and

WHEREAS, Each year the Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc. proudly honors outstanding organizations, businesses, and members of the community who give unselfishly of themselves to help make the lives of others fulfilling, recognizing them for their dedication to the community and their commitment to MHA's mission; and

WHEREAS, Sidney Hirschfeld will be honored by the Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc. with its prestigious Silver Bell Award at its 2013 Silver Ball to be held on Saturday, February 2, 2013, at the Round Hill House in Washingtonville, New York; and

WHEREAS, Sidney Hirschfeld graduated from St. John's University School of Law in 1973; he began a 37 year professional career dedicated to providing legal representation and advocacy for people with mental disabilities that was unbroken until his retirement in 2010; and

WHEREAS, From 1973 - 1975, Sidney Hirschfeld's first assignment was at Letchworth Village Developmental Center, Thiells, New York, where he served as Senior Attorney for people with developmental disabilities in a two county area; and

WHEREAS, For the next 11 years, Sidney Hirschfeld was assigned to Middletown Psychiatric Center as a Senior Attorney representing people with mental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Following that, through 1993, Sidney Hirschfeld held numerous temporary and special assignments at various facilities including Matteawan, Mid-Hudson Psychiatric Center, Rockland Psychiatric Center, Middletown Psychiatric Center and Wassaic Developmental Center; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in 1993, Sidney Hirschfeld served as Chief Attorney and Administrator for the Ninth Judicial District; he was responsible for the supervision of 21 attorneys at seven field offices across a five county area, while maintaining special relationships and channels of communication with various courts, agencies and administrators throughout New York State; and

WHEREAS, From 1999 until his retirement in 2010, Sidney Hirschfeld held the position of Director of the MHLS, New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division Second Judicial Department; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure at MHLS, Sidney Hirschfeld directed 19 offices with a staff of 144 employees, including 94 attorneys representing and litigating on behalf of mentally disabled persons on a wide

variety of issues; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his employment, Sidney Hirschfeld has shown his willingness over the years to volunteer his time to many community organizations; he was a founding Board Member of the Hilltop Children's Center in Middletown and served for over 10 years as a Board Member of the Emergency Housing Group currently known as Honor EHG; most recently, Sid contributed his wealth of experience and legal expertise to MHA in Orange County as an active Board Member between 2004 and 2009; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize Sidney Hirschfeld for his unwavering commitment to mental health and the Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc. as it provides an uncompromising standard of excellence in the delivery of superlative service to the communities and citizens it so ably serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Sidney Hirschfeld upon the occasion of his designation by the Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc. as the recipient of its 2013 Silver Bell Award on February 2, 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sidney Hirschfeld.