

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of TOPS Markets

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 businesses and individuals that are devoted 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 50th Anniversary of TOPS Markets; and

WHEREAS, The story of TOPS Markets began in the early 1920s when Ferrante Castellani and his family moved from a village outside of Rome, Italy to Niagara Falls, New York, where they opened their first grocery store; Ferrante's sons, Armand and Alfred, eventually took over the business and opened two more stores under the name Great Bear Market; and

WHEREAS, In the 1950s, Armand met Thomas Buscaglia, owner of T.A. Buscaglia Equipment Company, and the two men agreed on a joint venture, Niagara Frontier Services, the forerunner of TOPS Markets; during this time, Savino Nanula was also a key member of their team; and

WHEREAS, With a great passion for food, people and his company, Armand Castellani was a true visionary with ideas that were far advanced for the times; excited by the growth of supermarkets, Castellani and Buscaglia partnered with a group of independent Bells store owners, including Alfonse and Leonard DiMino, among others, who joined them as key partners in their early and expanding grocery enterprise; and

WHEREAS, The group opened its first modern supermarket in 1962, on Portage Road in Niagara Falls, New York; the same year, Alfonse DiMino suggested the name TOPS and the team chose the name because they were determined to give customers the best shopping experience possible; and

WHEREAS, The 1970s saw TOPS, under the leadership of Armand Castellani and Savino Nanula, continue to grow in Western New York; by the mid-70s, the company had expanded into the Rochester area; store growth continued for the next decade and during this time, TOPS opened its first Pennsylvania store in Bradford; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, TOPS was acquired by Ahold, a major international food retailer based in the Netherlands, and in 2001, TOPS formed an alliance with Giant Food Stores, another Ahold company based in Pennsylvania; the structure remained until 2006 when Ahold announced they would sell TOPS Markets to Morgan Stanley Private Equity; and

WHEREAS, Current President and CEO, Frank Curci, led the deal that returned TOPS to a locally operated organization in the fall of 2007; since that time, TOPS has grown from 71 to 132 stores stretching from Northern Pennsylvania to beyond the suburbs of Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, TOPS Markets has significantly contributed to the vitality of local communities, and has created and preserved thousands of jobs; and

WHEREAS, Proud of its history, TOPS Markets remains true to its roots as a store that has a passion for food and people; today, TOPS stores retain the neighborhood feel of the original family-owned grocery store; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges TOPS Markets' success, recognizes its contributions to the local and State economies, and extends its highest commendation to the corporation and its employees, fully confident that, in its future, it will

enjoy the same success which has so characterized its past; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of TOPS Markets; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Frank Curci, President and CEO, TOPS Markets.