

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Michael Mascari upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Humanitarian Award by the Nassau County AHRC Foundation on June 19, 2015

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, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Michael Mascari upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Humanitarian Award by the Nassau County AHRC Foundation, to be celebrated at its 65th Annual Rose Ball on Friday, June 19, 2015, at Crest Hollow Country Club, Woodbury, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Rose Ball, Nassau County AHRC Foundation's largest and most prestigious event of the year, allows AHRC to continue its mission to ensure compassionate, community-based programs for people with developmental disabilities now and in the future, regardless of budget cuts and changes in the political and economic climate; and

WHEREAS, Longtime Executive Director of AHRC, Michael Mascari has dedicated his career to advocating on behalf of people with developmental disabilities; when he joined AHRC Nassau as its Executive Director in 1988, the agency served 500 children and adults; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his illustrious 27-year tenure, Michael Mascari, in partnership with the organization's Board of Directors and management team, developed a full range of programs and services to meet the evolving and lifetime needs of people with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Today, as Executive Director of AHRC Nassau and its affiliate organizations which include Brookville Center for Children's Services, Advantage Care Diagnostic & Treatment Center, Inc., and Citizens Options Unlimited, Inc., Michael Mascari oversees profound annual operating budgets and a workforce of more than 3,100 professionals committed to enriching the lives of over 4,000 people with developmental disabilities throughout the Long Island Region; and

WHEREAS, Under the professional leadership of Michael Mascari, the agency has championed new legislation, pioneered pathways to promote full community inclusion, and continues in its mission to create individualized, meaningful supports and life opportunities for people with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Michael Mascari holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College, as well as a Master of Social Work from Case Western Reserve University; he began his career as a social worker and later became the community residence Manager in AHRC New York City's first group home in 1969; and

WHEREAS, During this time, he entered public service with the City of New York as Assistant Commissioner for Mental Retardation Services and was soon appointed to the groundbreaking joint position as both Assistant Commissioner for New York City and Associate Commissioner for New York State, serving the upstate region; and

WHEREAS, Michael Mascari is also the proud recipient of the Lester B. Granger Lifetime Service Award, a Dartmouth College Martin Luther King, Jr. Social Justice Award; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Michael Mascari has displayed throughout his life; 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 Michael Mascari upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Humanitarian Award by the Nassau County AHRC Foundation on June 19, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Michael Mascari.