

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Albany History Race Program at the Albany Public Library upon the occasion of receiving the Adult Program of the Year Award by the Upper Hudson Library System on June 10, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the great State of New York is reflective of certain exemplary institutions whose purpose is dedicated to serving the community and the needs of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Albany History Race Program at the Albany Public Library upon the occasion of receiving the Adult Program of the Year Award by the Upper Hudson Library System, to be celebrated at the 2015 Upper Hudson Library System Annual Dinner, on Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at the Century House, Latham, New York; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious award recognizes library programs which make a real and positive difference in their communities; the Albany History Race Program at the Albany Public Library truly educated, entertained, and empowered the Albany community; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Executive Director, Scott Jarzombek, the Adult Services librarians at the Albany Public Library have created numerous dynamic and informative programs which support literacy, financial security, entrepreneurship, and the arts; the Albany History Race was comprised of a one-day team competition and tour of many historic buildings and sites within the city of Albany; and

WHEREAS, This vital program successfully strengthened the Albany Public Library's reputation as a curator of local history, forged relationships with local businesses, delighted passionate history buffs, and engaged library followers; and

WHEREAS, Local history librarian and Albany native, Jim Davies, created the Albany History Race, which introduced people to the capital city's heritage in a fun and interesting way, by joining an old-fashioned scavenger hunt with the popular television show THE AMAZING RACE; and

WHEREAS, 17 teams of more than 50 enthusiastic competitors drove around Albany on a Saturday afternoon in November of 2014, completing various challenges related to the city's rich history; and

WHEREAS, Jim Davies crafted mission clues using pamphlets, photographs, yearbooks, newspapers, books, and maps from the Albany Public Library's Pruyn Collection of Albany History; the resulting clues led teams to 12 spots around Albany, including the old YMCA building on North Pearl Street, the former Cataract Brewery on Park Avenue, and a trolley pole that still stands on Quail Street; and

WHEREAS, The teams documented their visits to the clue locations with digital photos, and once all the clues were deciphered, and locations visited, teams raced to McGearry's Pub to determine the winners; the top three teams received bragging rights and prizes, which were procured from local businesses; and

WHEREAS, By combining an old-fashioned scavenger hunt, intriguing pieces of local history, and social outreach, Jim Davies was able to craft an exciting adult program which sparked an interest in Albany's history and the library's extensive collection; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, the Albany Public Library may take just pride in its purposeful growth, as it looks forward to continuing to serve the educational, cultural and intellectual needs of the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

honor the Albany History Race Program at the Albany Public Library upon the occasion of receiving the Adult Program of the Year Award by the Upper Hudson Library System on June 10, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Scott Jarzombek, Executive Director, Albany Public Library.