

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Darlene Ward upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Mary Rich Award by the New York State Court Appointed Special Advocates

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 individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Darlene Ward upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Mary Rich Award by the New York State Court Appointed Special Advocates which was celebrated at its 5th Annual Diamond and Hearts for New York's Children event on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at Glennpeter Jewelers Diamond Centre in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Darlene Ward is being recognized for her many years of service to New York State Court Appointed Special Advocates (NYSCASA) and the OCA Court Improvement Project, where she has provided support for abused and neglected children in the family courts; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed woman received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in English from the State University of New York at Albany, as well as her Masters of Arts in Community Psychology from Russell Sage College; and

WHEREAS, In January of 1997, Darlene Ward became the first full-time Director of NYSCASA, and during her illustrious tenure, was able to grow and expand the organization greatly; and

WHEREAS, With a sense of civic responsibility, Darlene Ward served in the New York State Unified Court System as a Statewide Program Manager for the Court Appointed Special Advocates Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Darlene Ward serves as Assistant Coordinator of the Child Welfare Court Improvement Project, a position she has held since 2013; and

WHEREAS, Darlene Ward is known for being a valuable asset to the children of New York State, and a powerful force in helping state programs like NYSCASA be more effective; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Darlene Ward has displayed throughout her life; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Darlene Ward upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Mary Rich Award by the New York State Court Appointed Special Advocates; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Darlene Ward.