

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the BUFFALO CRITERION

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those illustrious journalistic entities which have diligently and consistently, year after year, recorded the history of their communities and brought local news and news of the larger world to their readers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the BUFFALO CRITERION; and

WHEREAS, The BUFFALO CRITERION was founded in 1925, by Frank E. Merriweather, Sr. and his wife, Carmelita Merriweather; and

WHEREAS, Established to provide a voice to the Western New York African-American community, the BUFFALO CRITERION is the oldest continuously published African-American newspaper in Western New York; and

WHEREAS, The Merriweathers, through the BUFFALO CRITERION, contributed freely to the progress of the community and initiated the first Black political movement in Buffalo, assisting members of any political party; in addition, early newspaper issues focused on picturizing minority activities in the Black community when no other medium would do so; and

WHEREAS, Published continuously for the past 90 years, the BUFFALO CRITERION was also the first central city publisher in Western New York to own a complete newspaper plant with linotypes, newspaper presses, stereotyping equipment, photo engraving equipment and news cameras; and

WHEREAS, Frank E. Merriweather, Sr. was succeeded by his son, Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. in 1959; under his able leadership, the BUFFALO CRITERION continued to inform the Black community on issues vital to its survival such as health, education, employment, housing, religion, sports entertainment, human and civil rights, and encouraging political participation; and

WHEREAS, Today, the BUFFALO CRITERION is in its third generation of publication with Evelyn Merriweather as Publisher, Frances Merriweather as Editor, Patti Ferguson as Associate Editor, and Frank E. Merriweather, III as Photo-Journalist and Public Affairs Director; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, for the Merriweather family's steadfast commitment to the local community, the Buffalo & Erie Public Library is named after Frank E. Merriweather, Jr., and a portion of William Street in Buffalo was renamed as the Frank E. Merriweather, Sr. Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Past issues of this illustrious newspaper create a historic record of the history of African Americans in Buffalo and the Western New York area; and

WHEREAS, Our newspapers provide a tremendous service to citizens across the State of New York by keeping them informed about current events; the democracy of our State and Nation is strengthened by a responsible citizenry which is actively engaged in reading and kept abreast of news affecting their lives; and

WHEREAS, As the BUFFALO CRITERION moves into the future, it carries with it the legacy of a distinguished journalistic history and an outstanding record of growth and achievement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the BUFFALO CRITERION; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the BUFFALO CRITERION.