

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Rocco DeFazio family, one of the Founders of the Little Italy Neighborhood Association, upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway on October 1, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 organizations 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 commend the Rocco DeFazio family, one of the Founders of the Little Italy Neighborhood Association, upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway, celebrated at its 2015 Gala on Thursday, October 1, 2015, at the Troy Italian Community Center in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, First founded in 2005, the Little Italy Neighborhood Association was formed by Marion Field, Michael Esposito, and the Rocco Defazio family in an effort to establish Troy's Little Italy as an ethnic tourist destination and to revitalize Troy's historic Hill Street Market Place site; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1900s, many diverse ethnic groups immigrated to Troy, New York, and by 1930, there were about 2,000 Italian immigrants who called Troy their home; and

WHEREAS, During this industrious period, the Italian immigrants built up their neighborhood which was located within a 20-block radius by establishing over 60 mom-and-pop shops, churches, schools, a community center as well as a veterans' post; and

WHEREAS, In the 1960s, over 100 homes and businesses were demolished in Troy's Little Italy due to urban renewal and a failed highway plan; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Little Italy Neighborhood Association has recruited many volunteers to improve the once thriving community to make it a safe place for people to live, work and visit; and

WHEREAS, Troy's revival has benefitted the Little Italy neighborhood which is flourishing again; a sense of pride has been instilled into the area and community members and local businesses support the Association's goals; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to call attention to individuals and organizations, such as the Rocco DeFazio family and the Little Italy Neighborhood Association which serve to bring people together for the united purpose of actively pursuing improvements within their communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Rocco DeFazio family, one of the Founders of the Little Italy Neighborhood Association, upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway on October 1, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Rocco DeFazio family, Little Italy Neighborhood Association.