

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Joan Gavrilik upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2016 Citizen of the Year Award by the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce

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, Joan Gavrilik has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Joan Gavrilik upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2016 Citizen of the Year Award by the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce to be celebrated at its 31st Annual Awards Dinner on Friday, April 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1957, the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce works on a local and regional level to advance economic development and foster a positive business environment; it offers resources for residents, business, recreation and relocation in Bethlehem and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, Joan Gavrilik has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Joan Gavrilik is the current President of Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation, as well as a founding member of the organization, which was formed in 2013; and

WHEREAS, A retired Attorney for the New York State Department of Education, this remarkable woman was instrumental in the formation of this new organization, completing all applications and filings for non-profit status; Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation aims to improve Bethlehem parks, add recreational programming and increase participation by users; and

WHEREAS, Through her leadership, Joan Gavrilik has facilitated the development of a strategic plan for the organization in conjunction with its Board of Directors; she was instrumental in the creation of a Commemorative Tree and Bench Program; and

WHEREAS, Joan Gavrilik was also involved with developing a public presence and a marketing plan for the organization, which included authoring a grant for funding to develop and launch the Friends website; subsequently, a Facebook page was developed to keep the community apprised of the group's activities; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation also outreaches to the community, through participation in fellow member Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy's Summer Solstice event, as well as partnering with the Glenmont Job Corps in involving kids in the parks programs; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her commitment to the Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation, Joan serves on the Town Budget Committee, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Committee, and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Committee; and

WHEREAS, Further demonstrating her commitment to improving community life, Joan Gavrilik organized two "I Love My Park Days," coordinating all volunteers for these events, and participating with other park programs; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Joan Gavrilik stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Joan Gavrilik has displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Joan Gavrilik upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2016 Citizen of the Year Award by the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joan Gavrilik.