

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Barry D. Walston upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the LGBT Community Advocacy Award by In Our Own Voices, Inc. on July 17, 2016

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 organizations and individuals who would devote themselves 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 honor Barry D. Walston upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the LGBT Community Advocacy Award by In Our Own Voices, Inc., to be celebrated at its Annual Jazz in July Event on Sunday, July 17, 2016, at the State Room, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, In Our Own Voices, Inc. is an autonomous organization dedicated to addressing the many needs and ensuring the physical, mental, spiritual, political, cultural, and economic survival and growth of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People of Color (LGBT POC) community in the Capital Region of Upstate New York; and

WHEREAS, The LGBT Community Advocacy Award is given to an individual or organization that is committed to creating change in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People of Color communities; Barry D. Walston is one such individual; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in North Carolina, Barry D. Walston earned a bachelor's degree and a Master of Social Work from the University at Albany School of Social Welfare; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong activist who prides himself on being his "brother's keeper", Barry D. Walston is currently employed by the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute in the Bureau Division of HIV as a Contract Manager where he pilots initiatives within the Division of HIV Prevention; and

WHEREAS, Prior to serving in this capacity, Barry D. Walston was the Director of the Whitney M. Young Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program located in Albany, New York; he has spent the majority of his illustrious career working in human services and supporting programs that service populations at risk; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to social advocacy and activism, Barry D. Walston serves as President of the Albany Affiliate Black Child Development Institute, and President of Literacy New York of the Greater Capital Region; he is also the Grants Chair of the Albany Fund for Education; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Barry D. Walston is passionate about youth development and gives of his time and energy to local mentoring programs where he supports youth of color within the Albany City School District to reach their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Barry D. Walston upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the LGBT Community Advocacy Award by In Our Own Voices, Inc., and to wish this exemplary man continued success in his vital work on behalf of the community he serves; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Barry D. Walston.