

BY: Senator LARKIN

CONGRATULATING Evelyn Reyes upon the occasion of winning the Youth Category of the 2017 Habitat for Humanity National Photo Contest

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those individuals whose commitment and creative talents have contributed greatly to the entertainment, cultural and educational enrichment of their community as well as the entire State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Evelyn Reyes upon the occasion of winning the Youth Category of the 2017 Habitat for Humanity National Photo Contest celebrated at a conference on Wednesday, March 29, 2017, in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, The Habitat for Humanity National Photo Contest involved submitting photographs and answering questions such as "What do you love about your community?", "What makes your community special?" and "What inspires you about your community?"; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Reyes, a junior at Newburgh Free Academy's West Campus, discovered her passion for photography at a young age of 10 and has been taking stunning and thought-provoking pictures ever since; and

WHEREAS, Upon hearing about Habitat for Humanity's National Photo Contest from her art teacher, Evelyn Reyes entered the contest by expressing her deep admiration for her community; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Reyes considers her hometown of Newburgh, New York, as a place of numerous opportunities for change; it brings together people of different backgrounds who want to make it a better place to work and play; and

WHEREAS, The photographs Evelyn Reyes submitted represent her favorite places within her neighborhood; she sees the beauty in the City of Newburgh, however, she realizes there are many opportunities to make it better and safer; and

WHEREAS, Evelyn Reyes' truly hopes her neighbors will stop focusing on the violence and start directing their energy on the artists who are trying to make a difference through their passions; and

WHEREAS, The competition and conference in Georgia were Evelyn Reyes' first experiences with Habitat for Humanity, but she wants to become more involved soon; in addition, she hopes that the recognition her photography received by this organization will help inspire others in her neighborhood to follow their dreams; and

WHEREAS, Poised eagerly with enthusiasm and determined purpose, Evelyn Reyes now stands honorably, with just pride in her

accomplishments and in eager anticipation of future challenges, understanding and appreciating the caring counsel and support provided by her teachers, her parents, her school and her community; and

WHEREAS, In achieving this outstanding accomplishment, Evelyn Reyes may take just pride in the inspiration and contribution to the spirit of excellence she brings to her family, friends and her community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Evelyn Reyes upon the occasion of winning the Youth Category of the 2017 Habitat for Humanity National Photo Contest; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Evelyn Reyes.