

BY: M. of A. Santabarbara

COMMEMORATING the 60th Anniversary of the Liberty
ARC

WHEREAS, It is the custom of the Legislative Body to recognize those established organizations within our communities that, year after year, diligently work to improve the quality of life for its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Liberty ARC; and

WHEREAS, Liberty ARC is a Chapter of NYSARC, Inc., which is the largest not-for-profit organization in New York State dedicated to serving individuals with developmental and other disabilities and their families; and

WHEREAS, The 48 operating Chapters comprising NYSARC, Inc., such as the Liberty ARC, support and serve people of all ages with developmental disabilities, including those with Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, and neurological impairments; NYSARC, Inc. supports approximately 60,000 individuals and employs close to 30,000 people statewide; and

WHEREAS, NYSARC, Inc. was founded in 1951, when a group of parents with children with intellectual or other developmental disabilities were determined to change society's traditional disregard for the needs of their children, so they banded together to fight for the recognition of their children's special needs; and

WHEREAS, For more than six decades, NYSARC and its Chapters have been working to support people with developmental and other disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Chapter was founded in 1957, by parents of children with developmental disabilities who wished to establish special education programs in the local community; since its inception, Liberty ARC has grown to include vocational, residential, day, family support and health-related services; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization truly believes in the concepts of person-centered supports, choice and self-determination, which offer a well-defined and recognized path to providing quality supports which are truly driven by consumer choice; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the Liberty ARC was accredited by the Council on Quality and Leadership in Supports for People with Disabilities (CQL); in 2009, the agency was reaccredited for four years, the longest accreditation period granted by CQL; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of CEO, Jennifer Saunders,

the Liberty ARC offers traditional day, vocational and residential programs and has made a concerted effort to incorporate best practices into their daily operations; family services support programs, funded in part by the Liberty Foundation, offer individuals and families an array of no cost supports; and

WHEREAS, The Liberty ARC Residential Program is committed to offering services which promote individualized programming and supports based on each person's needs; each of Liberty's homes has a unique character and ambiance which reflects the personalities of the individuals that live there; and

WHEREAS, Individuals choose the type of home, the area, the people with whom he or she wishes to live and the staff members who will provide in-home support; the Liberty ARC offers a variety of residential options including well-staffed 24-hour supervised homes, supportive living apartments with staff providing assistance from 15 to 20 hours each week and family care situations where individuals live with families in the community; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Liberty ARC also offers a wide range of services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in Montgomery County; these services are a vital resource for families caring for an individual with a disability at home; services are offered in the community, in family homes, and at certified sites; and

WHEREAS, The Liberty ARC offers day habilitation programs in towns, villages and the City of Amsterdam in Montgomery County; each program has its own distinct character, yet all are focused on helping individuals gain independence, achieve personal goals and become an accepted, contributing member of the community; and

WHEREAS, At each program site a variety of activities take place throughout the day such as personal hygiene skills, training in activities of daily living such as cooking, money skills, shopping, and creative activities such as drawing, painting and photography; and

WHEREAS, Individuals in the program are encouraged to be very active in their community through volunteerism and participation in local events and fund raising; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, the Liberty ARC opened the Liberty Fresh Market to teach vital job skills, open doors, and provide new opportunities for people with disabilities, while providing local, fresh products to the community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Liberty ARC; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jennifer Saunders, CEO, Liberty ARC.