

BY: Senator JACOBS

COMMEMORATING the Centennial Anniversary of the
North Park Theatre in Buffalo, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those cultural institutions and organizations whose commitment to promoting the richness and diversity of the arts and entertainment world has contributed to the strength, vitality, and cultural enrichment of their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, it gives this Legislative Body great pleasure to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the North Park Theatre; and

WHEREAS, The North Park Theatre is a historic single screen movie theatre in Buffalo, New York's North Park Neighborhood, it opened and has functioned as a cinema since November 21, 1920; and

WHEREAS, Michael Shea, the original owner of the North Park Theatre in the 1920s, believed a movie theatre should capture the imaginations of filmgoers as soon as they enter the building; a theatre should lift the common man out of his daily routine and place him in a setting so grandiose, so richly detailed, that he should think it the most natural thing in the world to watch his dreams come to life on the silver screen; and

WHEREAS, As the years passed, new owners came along and had to sacrifice the North Park Theatre's original splendor for the sake of budget; lowering the high ceiling and boarding up stained-glass windows; unfortunately, with each year, this beautiful landmark became more neglected; yet despite how mistreated it became, the community held a special place in their heart for this little theatre; and

WHEREAS, When it became clear a massive investment into digital projection would be necessary for the North Park Theatre to survive, building owner and local defense attorney Tom Eoannou saw an opportunity to go above and beyond, and invested in this beloved neighborhood jewel to restore it to its 1920s glory; and

WHEREAS, In May of 2013, Tom Eoannou partnered with Left Bank Restaurant and Mes Que owner Michael Christiano to assume full operational control of the theatre, and a full-scale restoration began; and

WHEREAS, This Centennial Restoration saw the original front lobby brought back to life; as well as the restoration of the original windows above the marquee, the entranceway lobby, and the chandeliers; other transformations included a state-of-the-art digital projector, new seats, new windows, new lighting, newly exposed marble floors in the lobby, and a new concession stand; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of co-owners Tom Eoannou and Mike Christiano, the North Park Theatre is a crown jewel along Hertel Avenue, and has become the true epicenter of a community who never gave up hope and never let the lights go dark; and

WHEREAS, As the North Park Theatre looks back with great pride to its beginnings, viewing, with just satisfaction, its successful evolution, it renews both its dedication to supporting artistic excellence, and its commitment to the community it has served since 1920, expressing its appreciation to all those who have helped to sustain and enhance it over the years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of the North Park Theatre; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the North Park Theatre, Buffalo, New York.