

BY: Senator GRIFFO

CONGRATULATING JoAnn Ballard upon the occasion of her retirement after more than nine years of distinguished service as Executive Director of the Dodge Pratt Northam Art and Community Center

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate JoAnn Ballard upon the occasion of her retirement after more than nine years of distinguished service as Executive Director of the Dodge Pratt Northam Art and Community Center; and

WHEREAS, For the past nine and one-half years, JoAnn Ballard has dedicated her life to making the Dodge Pratt Northam Art and Community Center an integral and valuable part of its Boonville, New York, community; and

WHEREAS, As Executive Director, JoAnn Ballard has diligently worked to provide residents with programs and events for all ages; she developed wonderful children's programs such as the popular after school enrichment, STEAM and Tweens & Teens Mentors Program, along with a Competitive (FLL) First Lego League Robotics Program where her teams have won regional recognition for their projects; she also created the Monthly Featured Artists Series, hosting the work of many talented artists throughout Central New York; and

WHEREAS, JoAnn Ballard was instrumental in securing funds to help Erwin Library, the Center's sister organization purchase the old Dollar General Quonset Hut, allowing for a parking lot and a small park and restoring the remarkable Historical Triangle in the Village of Boonville; and

WHEREAS, Prior to her role at the Center, JoAnn Ballard served as Vice President for Programs and the Assistant Treasurer of Black River Environment Improvement Association (BREIA) and the Vice President of Program Development and Assistant Treasurer of Potato Hill Farm Outdoor Education Center (OEC); and

WHEREAS, In 2005, JoAnn Ballard began working at BREIA as an office administrator and bookkeeper; shortly thereafter, she was assigned the position of overseeing the Association's Outreach Program; under her leadership, it grew rapidly, with almost daily visits from local schools to BREIA and Black River Farm which required managing the schedule through communication with school administrators and teachers; she also had a significant role in land acquisitions and provided essential paper work for land easements for state, federal and private lands; and

WHEREAS, In the winter of 2008, the Potato Hill Farm Outdoor Education Center (OEC) was founded, and JoAnn Ballard was named Director; throughout her tenure, she oversaw the hiring and training of all staff, scheduling of school visits, community relations, transportation issues as well as a myriad of other administrative duties; and

WHEREAS, Through her steadfast and unrelenting commitment, JoAnn Ballard managed all of the public relations for both BREIA and the OEC and hosted many elected officials on the county, state and federal level as well as visiting journalists from all of the major Central New York newspapers; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her work with these organizations, JoAnn Ballard served as the office manager at the dental office with Drs. Slavin and Slavin, a family practice; after 30 years in the dental profession, she retired in May of 2008; and

WHEREAS, In her much-deserved retirement, JoAnn Ballard hopes to spend more time outdoors, whether it is hiking, biking, snowshoeing, camping, bird watching or visiting the Black River with her beloved husband and family; she also enjoys genealogy and local history, and her cherished cats and alpaca; and

WHEREAS, For more than nine years, JoAnn Ballard rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Dodge Pratt Northam Art and Community Center; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as Executive Director, JoAnn Ballard served with loyalty, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, In her official acts, JoAnn Ballard was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure with the Dodge Pratt Northam Art and Community Center, JoAnn Ballard earned the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate JoAnn Ballard upon the occasion of her retirement, and to wish her continued success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to JoAnn Ballard.