

BY: Senator KAPLAN

CONGRATULATING Joel Harris upon the occasion of his retirement as President of the Mineola Chamber of Commerce after 10 years of invaluable service

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 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 congratulate Joel Harris upon the occasion of his retirement as President of the Mineola Chamber of Commerce and after serving more than three decades of invaluable public service; and

WHEREAS, Joel Harris assumed the role of President of the Mineola Chamber of Commerce on July 12, 2018, during which time he gave tirelessly of his time and energies to serving the residents of his community; and

WHEREAS, Prior to holding this esteemed position, Joel Harris worked in finance for more than 40 years before joining the Mineola Chamber of Commerce in 2012, previously serving as its Vice President; and

WHEREAS, As President, Joel Harris was instrumental in giving local businesses their maximum exposure, creating a website where all members have their own business space; additionally, he made the Mineola Chamber of Commerce more visible to its residents, getting more people involved with a common goal of keeping the village beautiful, vibrant and active; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of Joel Harris, the Mineola Chamber of Commerce has served as the voice of the village's business community, cultivating and strengthening economic developments in the area for its merchants, professionals and business people to make Mineola a better place to work, live, learn and play; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the chamber has organized countless events such as the Mineola Street Fair, the Summer Car Show, blood drives and scholarship programs for high school students, in addition to assisting local businesses with economic needs; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Joel Harris has served as a photographer for several village and town events, mainly shooting for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Ronald McDonald House, Cystic Fibrosis and the Charlie Rose Foundation; he has also served as Lieutenant Governor for the Kiwanis New York District, an international service club that focuses on children; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and accolades, Joel Harris was named Businessman of the Year by the Mineola Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Joel Harris has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Joel Harris upon the occasion of his retirement as President of the Mineola Chamber of Commerce, and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joel Harris.