

**BY:** Senator BRESLIN

**HONORING** Anita Thayer upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Jim Perry Progressive Leadership Award by Capital District Citizen Action on September 14, 2021

**WHEREAS,** It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

**WHEREAS,** From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Anita Thayer upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Jim Perry Progressive Leadership Award by Capital District Citizen Action to be celebrated at its 29th Annual Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at The Linda, WAMC's Performing Arts Studio, Albany, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** The Jim Perry Progressive Leadership Award honors the legacy of Jim Perry, a gay rights leader and founding member of the Capital District Chapter of Citizen Action of New York; his leadership role both in the Capital District and statewide was exemplary, and his dedication to politics and coalition building paved the way for the passage of Albany's Human Rights Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS,** It is with the memories of Jim Perry's actions and words that this vital organization recognizes those who have demonstrated a commitment to community activism and leadership; and

**WHEREAS,** Anita Thayer is being honored with this auspicious award for her role as one of the area's most dedicated, inspiring activists and leaders who has spent countless hours working to make her community a stronger, more just place to live; and

**WHEREAS,** Anita Thayer is a long-time member of Citizen Action of New York and served as chair and co-chair of the Capital District Citizen Action Board for nearly 19 years until 2020; and

**WHEREAS,** She has been part of various educational advocacy campaigns and issue campaigns as part of her association with Citizen Action; and

**WHEREAS,** Anita Thayer grew up in upstate New York, and graduated from high school in Central Square; she also received a bachelor of arts degree from Albany State University and a Juris Doctor from Albany Law School; and

**WHEREAS,** From 1981 to 2009, Anita Thayer was a partner in the Albany

law firm of Walter, Thayer, and Mishler, P.C.; she then worked as an Alternate Public Defender for Albany County, representing parents in Family Court until her retirement in 2014; and

**WHEREAS,** From 1981 to 1991, Anita Thayer was a member of the Steering Committee of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism; and

**WHEREAS,** Previously, Anita Thayer was a member and leader of the Albany Friends of the Farmworkers, an organization that supported Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers union and its national boycott of scab-picked grapes and lettuce as well as advocating for legislation to increase the organizing protections for New York State's farm workers; and

**WHEREAS,** During college, Anita Thayer was an Editor-in-chief of the Albany Student Press; she also worked for the Guilderland Turnpike Record and was on the staff of the Albany Washington Park Spirit; and

**WHEREAS,** Anita Thayer is a prior President of the Capital District Women's Bar Association, and a member of the National Lawyers Guild; and

**WHEREAS,** With her throughout have been her husband, Bill Ritchie, and their two adult children, Brian Ritchie and Nora Ritchie, as well as their three grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

**WHEREAS,** Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Anita Thayer has displayed throughout her life; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals 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 honor Anita Thayer upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Jim Perry Progressive Leadership Award by Capital District Citizen Action; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Anita Thayer.