

**BY:** Senator BRESLIN

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

**WHEREAS,** Paul Webster is a lifelong resident of New York State and a veteran community organizer, most recently serving for many years as Community Outreach Director for New York State United Teachers (NYSUT); and

**WHEREAS,** He is a Board member of the Schenectady Metroplex Development Authority and the Public Policy and Education Fund of New York, as well as a long-time member of Citizen Action of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Paul Webster was the Assistant Press Secretary to the New York State Assembly Majority for several years, and from 1994-1998, he served as Legislative Director to the Chairman of the Assembly's Corporation, Authorities & Commissions Committee; and

**WHEREAS,** Prior to his NYS Assembly service, Paul Webster was a Staff Writer for the Times Union (Albany) Newspaper; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2017, then President Barack Obama appointed Paul Webster to a three-year term as a Board Member of the Erie Canal National Heritage Trust; he is also a former Board member of the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries and a Board member of the Schenectady County Industrial Development Agency (IDA); and

**WHEREAS,** A life member of the NAACP, Paul Webster is a Past President of the Schenectady County Branch NAACP; and

**WHEREAS,** Paul Webster earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Television & Radio from Brooklyn College, CUNY; and is completing his Master of Arts degree in Education Theory and Practice in the School of Education at the University at Albany (SUNY); and

**WHEREAS,** Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Paul Webster has displayed throughout his 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 Paul Webster upon the occasion of his 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 Paul Webster.