

BY: Senator REICHLIN-MELNICK

CELEBRATING the 75th Anniversary of Elmwood
Community Playhouse, Inc. on June 11, 2022

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 in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Elmwood Community Playhouse, Inc., on Saturday, June 11, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Located in Nyack, New York, Elmwood Community Playhouse has provided the mid-Hudson Valley with high-quality theater for 75 years; and

WHEREAS, In 1947, a group of theater-makers performed in several locations in Rockland County; 11 years later, they purchased St. Paul's Lutheran Church, built in 1892, on Park Street in Nyack, and in 1961, Elmwood Community Playhouse, Inc., was officially registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, named after the "Elmwood" phone exchange in downtown Nyack; and

WHEREAS, The performances at Elmwood Community Playhouse are thoroughly professional in every aspect except one: the performers all donate freely of their time solely out of love and a commitment to excellence; despite the stereotype, they proudly embrace the community aspect of the theater; and

WHEREAS, Elmwood Community Playhouse is a gathering place; in addition to performances, its meetings, opening and closing night parties, and workshops provide a space to come together, discuss, debate, and participate; Elmwood engages with local groups; it belongs to and collaborates with the Rockland Institute for Non-Profits, the Arts Council of Rockland, the Nyack Chamber of Commerce, and the Rockland Community Foundation, as well as hosts benefits for dozens of additional local groups; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Elmwood Community Playhouse is a resource; it loans out its extensive collection of costumes, furniture, and props to schools and other theaters throughout the area; it fosters partnerships and provides performance opportunities for underserved communities, such as with ARC of Rockland and Music For Life Creative Arts Therapy; and

WHEREAS, Through Elmwood Community Playhouse's history, it has been able to provide to the 99-seat audience a wealth of entertainment and has staged more than 392 main stage productions, including plays,

musicals, an opera, and original world-premiere shows; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Elmwood Community Playhouse has offered performing arts classes for children and tutored many through its technical production mentoring program and has staged workshops and monthly readings; and

WHEREAS, Since 1948, Elmwood Community Playhouse has had over 2,390 people volunteer and have entertained over 275,000 audience members; and

WHEREAS, A vibrant arts community encourages collaboration, instills local pride, draws people together, and is essential to a community's vitality; since its inception, Elmwood Community Playhouse has greatly contributed to the richness of New York's cultural palette and remains steadfastly dedicated to ensuring this gem remains in all its glory for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, The arts are the building blocks of civilization; they are central to human expression; they enlighten us and inspire the imagination; educational institutions, individuals, and organizations which further such worthy purposes richly merit the recognition and appreciation of this Legislative Body and the people of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, As Elmwood Community Playhouse in Nyack 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 for 75 years, 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 celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Elmwood Community Playhouse, Inc., on Saturday, June 11, 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Elmwood Community Playhouse, Inc.