

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMENDING Lieutenant Deborah Harris upon the occasion of her retirement after 20 years of dedicated service to the Oneida County Sheriff's Office

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished officers who would devote themselves to public service, demonstrating great courage and diligence in providing for the care and welfare of the citizens of their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Within every community of the State of New York there are certain individuals who, by virtue of their commitment and dedication, command the respect and admiration of their community for their exemplary contributions and service on behalf of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Lieutenant Deborah Harris upon the occasion of her retirement after 20 years of dedicated service to the Oneida County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Harris began her esteemed law enforcement career, spanning two decades, as a Correction Officer in 2001; six years later, she was promoted to Sergeant, and then in 2017, she was promoted to the esteemed rank of Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, Early on in her career, Lieutenant Deborah Harris excelled in the area of inmate programs which included the county's high school equivalency (G.E.D.) program which has been rated one of the best in the state; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Deborah Harris also took great pride in teaching the inmates various trades such as landscaping, horticulture, and painting; under her able supervision, she and the inmates completed various painting and beautification projects in area parks, ballfields, cemeteries, and municipal buildings; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Lieutenant Deborah Harris enjoyed overseeing and working with the inmates on several horticultural projects such as the annual vegetable garden at the jail and tending to the landscaping at the Sheriff's Office headquarters; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Deborah Harris led an inmate sewing program which provided blankets to the homeless veterans and the area's domestic violence shelters, and most recently, she and her team made and donated hundreds of handmade facial masks for people to wear during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her tenure, Lieutenant Deborah Harris truly served the residents of Oneida County with compassion, integrity, and fairness, attributes which will forever serve as an example for her

fellow officers; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those dedicated public servants who unselfishly devote their lives to the preservation of order and the protection of others are worthy and due full praise for their commitment and noble endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Lieutenant Deborah Harris upon the occasion of her retirement after 20 years of dedicated service to the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, and to wish her well in all her future endeavors; and be it further

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