

BY: Senator GAUGHRAN

CONGRATULATING President/CEO Gerard McCaffery upon the occasion of his retirement after 15 years of distinguished service to MercyFirst

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate President/CEO Gerard McCaffery upon the occasion of his retirement after 15 years of distinguished service to MercyFirst to be celebrated with a Cocktail Party held in his honor at the MercyFirst Campus Field, in Syosset, New York, on Thursday, June 3, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Gerard "Jerry" McCaffery has served as President/CEO of MercyFirst since 2006; founded in 1894 by the Sisters of Mercy, MercyFirst employs over 600 people in 15 locations in Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, Together, these programs serve over 3,000 children, youth and families each year through preventive services, family foster care and adoption services, group homes and mother-child residences, juvenile justice, immigrant youth programs, medical and mental health services, and specialized residential treatment programs on the Syosset Campus; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its motto for over 125 years, "Hope is Unstoppable!" MercyFirst has ensured that children and families receive the most innovative, effective and compassionate care available; and

WHEREAS, Gerard McCaffery graduated from Nassau Community College with an Associate's degree in Mathematics; he also attended SUNY at Stony Brook where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education and History; he then earned his MBA from New York University Stern School of Business; more recently, he served as a Mentor to graduate students in Fordham University's Center for Nonprofit Leaders; and

WHEREAS, With almost 45 years of experience leading and managing not-for-profit agencies, Gerard McCaffery started in the field as a Houseparent in a group home for teenage boys; prior to joining MercyFirst, he served as President/CEO for 10 years of Seamen's Society for Children and Families, a child and family services agency serving Staten Island and Brooklyn, and before that, he was the Vice President of Children's House, a non-profit child and family service agency on Long Island, now called Family and Children's Association; and

WHEREAS, An exceptional leader, Gerard McCaffery brings a business approach to providing critical human services with extensive experience in strategic planning, media relations, program development and finance;

he has been involved in several mergers of not-for-profit agencies as a means of making services more integrated and cost efficient; and

WHEREAS, Gerard McCaffery is a long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies, a state-wide coalition of child welfare agencies in New York State; he served as the Council's Downstate Vice President and was the long-time Chair of their Accountability Committee that works with the New York City Administration for Children's Services in improving methods to evaluate an agency's performance in delivering child welfare services; and

WHEREAS, He was a Founding Board Member of the Collaborative for Children and Families which was designated in 2016 as a Children's Health Home by the New York State Department of Health; previously, he served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Health and Welfare Council of Long Island; and

WHEREAS, As President/CEO, Gerard McCaffery rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to MercyFirst; serving with loyalty, honor and distinction, he was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems, earning him the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate President/CEO Gerard McCaffery upon the occasion of his retirement, and to wish him well in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gerard McCaffery.