

BY: M. of A. Lupardo

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the
Broome-Tioga NAACP on February 12, 2022

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those enduring organizations which devote their purposeful energies to improving the quality and dignity of life of those they serve, to preserving their heritage, and to fostering pride among them; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Broome-Tioga NAACP on February 12, 2022; and

WHEREAS, The oldest and largest civil rights organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in 1909, in New York City by a group of citizens committed to improving the quality of life for African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, Among the early leaders of the NAACP was W.E.B. DuBois, who helped establish the Niagara Movement in 1905; other early members included Ida B. Wells, Archibald Grimke, Henry Moskowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard and William English Walling; and

WHEREAS, The 1920s was a decade of heightened Ku Klux Klan activity across the United States, and its membership and activity flourished throughout the cities of upstate New York; and

WHEREAS, During this time, the Pastor of Binghamton's AME Church was beaten on a train from Albany, New York for not giving up his seat; subsequently, a small group of African American citizens led by Fred Hazel, a known fighter against racial injustice and head of the local school, maintained communications with the national office of the NAACP regarding the beating of a Black man and the civil suit that followed; and

WHEREAS, On February 12, 1922, a branch of the NAACP was then established by Fred Hazel in Binghamton, New York, with 54 charter members; in 1992, this vital organization re-chartered to include all of Broome County and neighboring Tioga County; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception a century ago, the Broome-Tioga NAACP has continued to work with the State and National Office of the NAACP to support its mission to realize justice for all people with a focus on the historically disenfranchised and underrepresented; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the organization continues to fight against injustices in the local community, targeting its programming on economic development and empowerment, engagement with local youth, educational policy, civic engagement and participation, while maintaining a

membership exceeding 100 members with the national office; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Broome-Tioga NAACP, recognizing its steadfast and unwavering commitment to the Southern Tier of the State of New York, and to the advancement of the mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Broome-Tioga NAACP.